

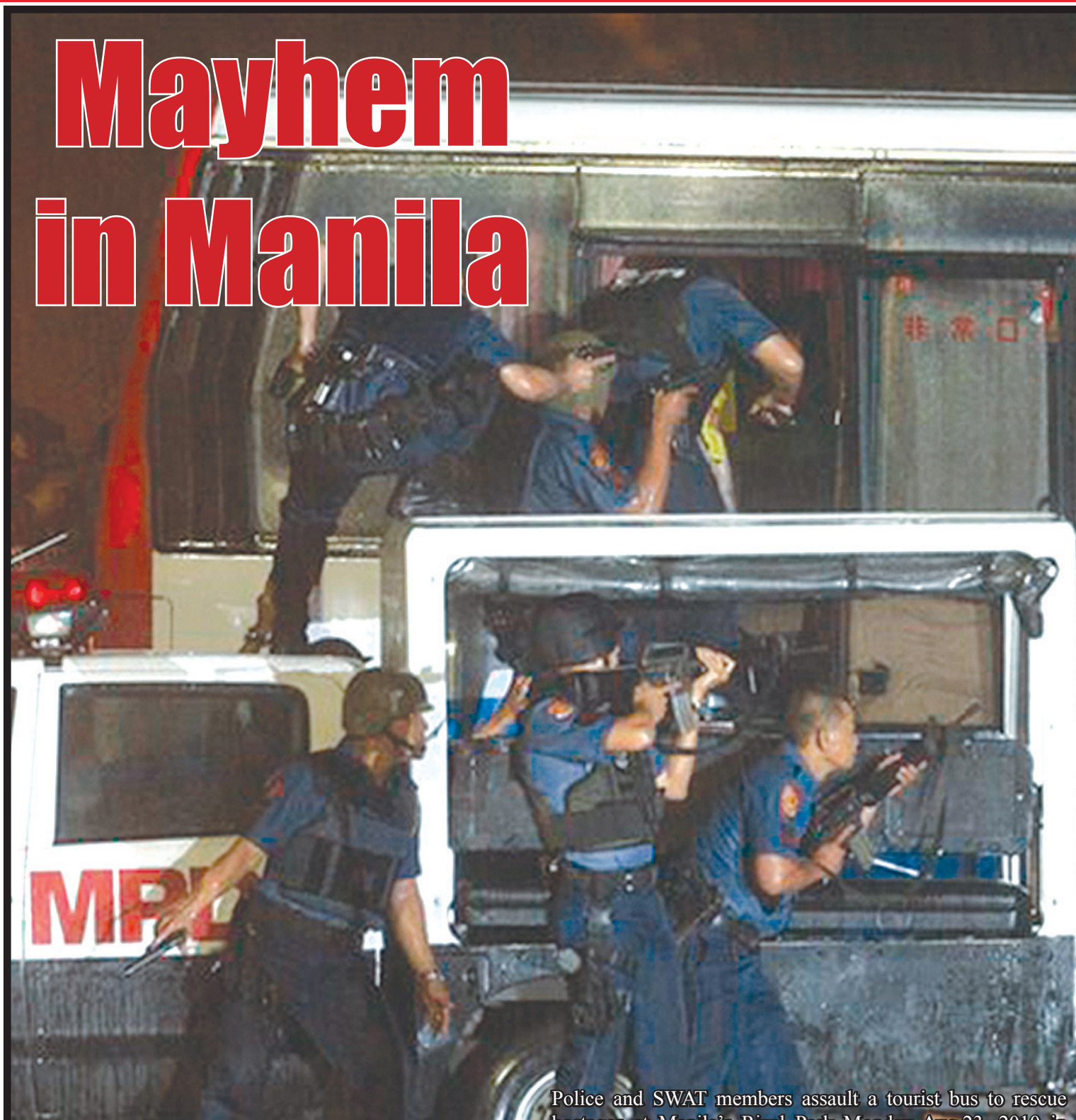
Aruban are World Champion



ORANJESTAD – Yesterday afternoon, roads were closed and every school on the island let all of their students go home at noon so they would have the opportunity to welcome Aruba's heroes back home.

Aruba's Senior League of teenage baseball players arrived yesterday to be welcomed by the Prime Minister of Aruba Mike Eman and Minister of Sports Richard Visser together with many of the other top government officials. Upon the arrival of the World Champion Team that arrived yesterday from Maine, USA, they were greeted by thousands of fans who now call them national heroes. □

Mayhem in Manila



Police and SWAT members assault a tourist bus to rescue hostages at Manila's Rizal Park Monday Aug.23, 2010 in Manila, Philippines. Rolando Mendoza, a dismissed policeman armed with automatic rifle, seized the bus in Manila Monday with 25 people aboard, mostly foreign tourists in a bid to demand reinstatement, police said. Mendoza was killed along with an undetermined number of hostages.

*Associated Press
Read More on Page 6*

No evidence that tainted eggs go beyond 2 farms



A notice at a Washington supermarket describes a nationwide recall of eggs, August 23, 2010. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration commissioner on Monday said there may be more recalls of eggs in the salmonella outbreak and the agency did not yet know how the eggs and chickens were contaminated

Read More on Page B12

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Passions rise at dueling NYC mosque demonstrations



People participate in a rally against a proposed mosque and Islamic community center near ground zero in New York, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010.

By VERENA DOBNIK,
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Hundreds of impassioned demonstrators — all waving American flags, but separated into two groups by police — descended on the site of the proposed mosque near ground zero, with opponents chanting, “No mosque, no way!” and supporters shouting, “We say no to racist fear!”

The two leaders of the construction project, meanwhile, defended their plans on Sunday, though one suggested that organizers might eventually be willing to discuss an alternative site. The other, Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf, said during a Middle East trip

(AP Photo/Seth Wenig)

that the attention generated by the project is actually positive and that he hopes it will bring greater understanding.

The rallies took place around the corner from the cordoned-off old building that is to become a 13-story Islamic community center and mosque. There were no reports of physical clashes but there were some nose-to-nose confrontations, including a man and a woman screaming at each other across a barricade under a steady rain.

Opponents of the \$100 million project two blocks from the World Trade Center site appeared to outnumber supporters. Bruce Springsteen’s “Born in the

USA” blared over loudspeakers as mosque opponents chanted, “No mosque, no way!”

Signs hoisted by dozens of protesters standing behind police barricades read “SHARIA” — using dripping, blood-red letters to describe Islam’s Shariah law, which governs Muslims’ behavior. Steve Ayling, a 40-year-old Brooklyn plumber, said the people behind the mosque project are “the same people who took down the twin towers.”

Opponents demand that the mosque be moved farther from the site where more than 2,700 people were killed on Sept. 11, 2001. “They should put it in the Middle East,” Ayling said. On a nearby sidewalk, police chased away a group that unfurled a banner with images of beating, stoning and other torture they said was committed by those who followed Islamic law.

A mannequin wearing a keffiyeh, a traditional Arab headdress, was mounted on one of two mock missiles that were part of an anti-mosque installation. One missile was inscribed with the words: “Again? Freedom Targeted by Religion”; the other with “Obama: With a middle name Hussein. We understand. Bloomberg: What is your

excuse?”

New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has fiercely defended plans for the proposed mosque, saying that the right “to practice your religion was one of the real reasons America was founded.”

The mosque project is being led by Rauf and his wife, Daisy Khan, who insist the center will promote moderate Islam. The dispute has sparked a national debate on religious freedom and American values and is becoming an issue on the campaign trail ahead of the midterm elections. Republicans have been critical of President Barack Obama’s stance: He has said the Muslims have the right to build the center at the site but has not commented on whether he thinks they should.

Rauf is in the middle of a Mideast trip funded by the U.S. State Department that is intended to promote religious tolerance. He told a gathering Sunday at the U.S. ambassador’s residence in the Persian Gulf state of Bahrain that he took heart from the dispute over the mosque, saying “the fact we are getting this kind of attention is a sign of success.”

“It is my hope that people will understand more,” Rauf said

without elaborating.

Democratic New York Gov. David Paterson has suggested that state land farther from ground zero be used for the center. Khan, executive director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement, expressed some openness to that idea on ABC’s “This Week with Christiane Amanpour,” but said she would have to meet with the center’s other “stakeholders” first.

“We want to build bridges,” Khan said. “We don’t want to create conflict, this is not where we were coming from.”

But Khan also said the angry reaction to the project “is like a metastasized anti-Semitism.”

At the pro-mosque rally, staged a block away from opponents’ demonstration, several hundred people chanted, “Muslims are welcome here! We say no to racist fear!”

Dr. Ali Akram, a 39-year-old Brooklyn physician, came with his three sons and an 11-year-old nephew waving an American flag. He noted that scores of Muslims were among those who died in the towers, and he called those who oppose the mosque “un-American.” “They teach their children about the freedom of religion in America — but they don’t practice what they preach,” Akram said. □

Oil spill investigators focus on communication

By RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI

HARRY R. WEBER,
Associated Press Writers

HOUSTON — Federal investigators seeking the cause of the rig explosion that led to BP’s massive Gulf oil spill focused Monday on communication and chain of command, wondering at times whether the key players knew enough to handle an emergency.

Neil Cramond, who oversees BP’s marine operations in the Gulf, acknowledged he rarely had contact with Paul Johnson, who managed the Deepwater Horizon rig for owner Transocean Ltd., which leased it to BP.

The rig exploded April 20, killing 11 workers and spewing 206 million gallons of oil into the sea before a temporary cap

stopped the flow in mid-July.

Cramond also testified that captains of rigs like the Deepwater Horizon are ultimately responsible for crew safety and environmental matters, but are not always involved in decisions about how to deal with drilling operations and potential risks. Members of the joint U.S. Coast Guard-Bureau of Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement investigative panel are trying to figure out what caused the explosion and how regulation, safety and oversight can be improved to prevent another such catastrophe.

Cramond’s description of how responsibilities and communication were divided among the parties responsible for the sunken rig raised eyebrows at times among the

investigators.

While questioning Cramond, a Coast Guard official wondered if there was anyone who had a “big picture” of what was going on. He said he was concerned the captain was responsible for keeping the crew and vessel safe and preventing pollution, but had “little say and awareness of what’s going on in terms of risk.”

“I believe what you’ve outlined is an accurate picture,” Cramond said, noting such arrangements are standard in the oil and gas industry. He insisted, however, that records will show that on a number of occasions he communicated concerns about safety problems to the people who needed to know about them.

Asked if the Deepwater



Co-chair U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Hung Nguyen, right, asks a question as U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Mark Higgins, left, and Wayne Andersen, center, retired U.S. District Judge, listen during the Deepwater Horizon joint investigation hearings by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Interior Department’s Bureau of Ocean Management, Regulation and Enforcement Monday, Aug. 23, 2010 in Houston.

(AP Photo/Melissa Phillip, Pool)

Horizon was properly manned at the time of the explosion that killed 11 workers, he replied: “I have no information that would say otherwise.”

Johnson, whose responsibilities included training and personnel, was not on board the Deepwater Horizon when it exploded. □

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Ind. ruling halts caregiver choices based on race

By CHARLES WILSON,
Associated Press Writer

INDIANAPOLIS – Certified nursing assistant Brenda Chaney was on duty in an Indiana nursing home one day when she discovered a patient lying on the floor, unable to stand.

But Chaney couldn't help the woman up. She had to search for a white aide because the woman had left instructions that she did not want any black caregivers. And the nursing home insisted it was legally bound to honor the request.

The episode, which led to a recent federal court ruling that Chaney's civil rights had been violated, has brought to light a little known consequence of the patients' rights movement that swept the nation's health care system over the last two decades.

Elderly patients, who won more legal control over their quality of life in nursing homes, sometimes want to dictate the race of those who care for them. And some nursing homes enforce those preferences in their staff policies.

"When people write laws, they don't think about these types of things very much," said Dennis Frick, an attorney with Indiana Legal Services' Senior Law Project.

At nursing homes, tension over patient rights and race "comes up occasionally in virtually every state in the United States," said Steve Maag, director of assisted living and continuing care at the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging.

Maag said he has gotten several questions a year from nursing home officials about

reassigning workers to suit residents' racial preferences. Another case in Indiana last year resulted in a damage settlement for a caregiver. A state agency in Montana has also handled a formal bias complaint.

Now, Indiana state health officials expect to notify all nursing homes of the court ruling, and Frick said it could be cited as precedent throughout the nation.

In 1987, Congress enacted the Nursing Home Reform Law to address evidence of widespread abuse of nursing home patients.

The states followed suit with "a strong set of regulations that would guarantee that residents were free from abuse and had quality of care, and really had quality of life," said Robyn Grant, a national senior care advocate who was involved in drafting Indiana's rules in 1990.

But the emphasis on patient rights led some nursing homes to think they outweighed everything else.

"We were taught that residents' rights were paramount," said Janet McSharrar, who specializes in long-term care issues and represented the nursing home where Chaney worked in Plainfield, an Indianapolis suburb of 23,000.

Under federal law, nursing home residents are free to choose their own physicians. Indiana's law is broader, saying patients can choose their "providers of services." Both laws say nursing homes must reasonably accommodate residents' "individual needs and preferences."

Other states' laws are similarly broad. Grant said the

In this July 30, 2010 photo, Brenda Chaney poses in her attorney Denise LaRue's office, in Indianapolis. Chaney worked in a Plainfield, Ind., nursing home that issued her an assignment sheet including a daily reminder that one woman in her unit 'Prefers No Black CNAs.' Nursing home residents have the right to choose who's going to take care of them, except when those choices are based on color, 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in Chaney's case in July.

(AP Photo/Michael Conroy)

Indiana law was intended to cover providers such as pharmacies, not caregivers.

Documents in Chaney's lawsuit, filed in 2008, say her daily assignment sheet at Plainfield Healthcare Center always included the reminder that one patient in her unit "Prefers No Black CNAs."

Chaney, a 49-year-old single mother who at the time was helping to put her only son through college, initially went along with the policy despite her misgivings because she needed the money.

"I always felt like it was wrong," said Chaney, who has worked in nursing homes since she earned certification in 2006. "I just had to go with the flow."

The nursing home said it was just following a long-standing interpretation of the patients' rights law. "The rules say this is their home and everyone else is just a visitor there, including staff," said McSharrar. □



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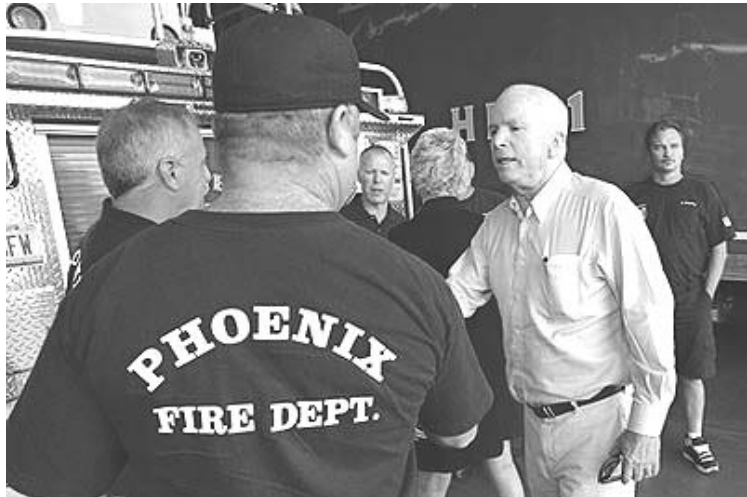
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In this Aug. 21, 2010, file photo, Sen John McCain, R-Ariz., meets firefighters at Phoenix Firestation # 1 in Phoenix. McCain has become the clear front-runner in Tuesday's GOP Senate primary in Arizona after a summer in which he was often tagged as a vulnerable incumbent. McCain has spent some \$20 million and cast his Republican opponent, J.D. Hayworth, as a late-night infomercial huckster in a series of devastating ads.

(AP Photo/Matt York)

McCain turns vulnerable label into front-runner

By JONATHAN J. COOPER,
 Associated Press Writer

GILBERT, Ariz. — The cast of "Survivor" has nothing on Sen. John McCain.

Once labeled a vulnerable incumbent, the four-term Arizona Republican is the clear front-runner against challenger J.D. Hayworth after spending some \$20 million and casting his GOP opponent as a late-night infomercial huckster in a series of devastating ads. The primary is Tuesday.

McCain, who turns 74 on Aug. 29, has survived the deadly 1967 explosion on the USS Forrestal, 5 1/2 years in a Vietnam POW camp after being shot down near Hanoi and skin cancer. Politically, he has persisted through the Keating Five savings and loan scandal, and two failed bids for the White House.

"I have stood up and led the fight as a fiscal conservative and a leader on national defense and a strong supporter of the men and women who are fighting and sacrificing for this nation," McCain told a woman who questioned his record at a town-hall meeting last Thursday.

Long unpopular with some home-state conservatives, McCain immediately recognized the threat posed by Hayworth, a talk-radio host and former six-term congressman from Scottsdale. And he set out to neutralize it. McCain also realized that the anti-establishment fervor could cost him his seat in the primary; it already had claimed two other senators — Republican Bob Bennett of Utah and Democrat Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania.

McCain tossed aside his self-described "maverick" label and adopted a hard-line stand on immigration just a few years after working with Democrats on a path to citizenship for those in the country illegally. "Complete the danged fence," he says in a campaign ad, three years after dismissing the effectiveness of building a fence on the U.S.-Mexico border.

A series of McCain ads called Hayworth a "huckster," showing clips of him in an infomercial telling viewers they can get free government money. It was an embarrassment for a candidate running as a fiscal conservative, and it caught Hayworth flat-footed. At first he defended it, then apologized as the story lived on for weeks.

"I think McCain's truthful. J.D. Hayworth sure isn't. He's a liar," said Martha Moloney, a 72-year-old church worker from Mesa.

One poll last month showed McCain with a

lead of as much as 45 percentage points.

"J.D. Hayworth is deader than Elvis," said McCain spokesman Brian Rogers.

Hayworth is undaunted. He has had an exhausting series of campaign events throughout Arizona, mostly in rural areas away from Phoenix. On a remote stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border, he criticized McCain for not supporting a change in the 14th Amendment of the Constitution to eliminate the automatic grant of citizenship to anyone born in the United States.

"In the final analysis, it ain't me, it's John McCain and his record that will be held to account," Hayworth told The Associated Press.

Hayworth aides argue that McCain is vulnerable on immigration in a state that has adopted the nation's toughest law cracking down on illegal immigrants. A Hayworth ad accused the incumbent of lying about his stand on the issue — a charge the McCain campaign denies, but which resonates with voters supporting the challenger.

"We need someone in the Senate who's going to think about Arizona. McCain just doesn't care about the constituents. He doesn't care about Arizona," said Judy Howard, a 51-year-old retired federal probation official who said she'll probably vote for Hayworth.

Hayworth has an enthusiastic crowd of supporters, but his challenge grows larger every day as the number of potential voters dwindles. In Maricopa County, where a majority of Arizonans live, more than half of 350,000 Republican early ballots had already been returned by Friday.

Jim Deakin, a contractor and Navy veteran, is pursuing the same tea party activists Hayworth is courting. Deakin's throw-the-bums-out message combined with an everyman charm and no elective office experience could siphon anti-McCain votes from Hayworth.

Despite polls showing a likely win, McCain isn't letting up. He spent \$3.5 million on the race in July, most of it from the legal fund of his 2008 presidential campaign. By Aug. 4, McCain had spent \$19.6 million to Hayworth's \$2.6 million — a "lie and buy" strategy, Hayworth says.

But Hayworth hasn't helped his cause. He incorrectly said the United State never declared war on Nazi Germany in World War II, and suggested that a Massachusetts Supreme Court ruling on gay marriage might allow a man to marry his horse. □

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3 dead, 4 wounded in shootout in central Virginia

By ZINIE CHEN SAMPSON,
Associated Press Writer

LOUISA, Va. — A man who shot and killed his son and nephew and wounded four other relatives had been involved in an ongoing family dispute over a piece of property in a rural central Virginia neighborhood, authorities said Monday.

Sheriff's deputies had been called to the property nearly two dozen times in recent years — including once earlier in the day Sunday — before Charles P. Steadman Sponaugle, 52, opened fire on his family members, Louisa sheriff's Maj. Donnie Lowe said.

Sponaugle fired at two deputies and unleashed his pit bull at them before deputies responded, fatally shooting both Sponaugle and the dog, said Corinne Geller, a Virginia State Police spokeswoman.

Deputies had been called out to the property around 2 p.m. Sunday and a dispute was resolved. But they were called again around 4:45 p.m. when

Sponaugle opened fire with a .22-caliber semiautomatic target pistol, Geller said.

Sponaugle shot and killed his son, Charles P. Steadman, 29, and nephew Mark A. Cooper Jr., 23. Also shot were his sister, Kitty L. Cooper, 41; brother-in-law Mark A. Cooper Sr., 45; and nephews Gerald A. Steadman Jr., 26, and Jason C. Steadman, 27.

Jason Steadman was flown to the University of Virginia Medical Center with life-threatening injuries. Gerald Steadman was held overnight for observation, and Kitty and Mark Cooper Sr. were treated and released.

P.T. Spencer, a member of the Louisa County Board of Supervisors, said Monday that Sponaugle and two other relatives had an ongoing dispute over a 1.5-acre lot.

"We've had problems with them," Spencer said of Sponaugle's family.

Geller said there were multiple residences on the property, and that Sponaugle lived at the home where the shootings

took place.

Court documents show that the property was assessed at \$52,100. Sponaugle's mother deeded it to him and five others, including Kitty Cooper, in July 2002.

Since 2001, deputies had been called out to the property 23 times, but the disputes had never gotten physical, Lowe said.

On Monday, several people gathered outside the weathered mobile home with boarded-up windows, telling reporters to leave the property, located off a dirt road. A few dogs were held in a pen in the front yard.

Major Donald Lowe, right, Chief Deputy of the Louisa County Sheriff's department, speaks during a news conference along with Sheriff Ashland Fortune, left, in Louisa, Va., Monday, Aug. 23, 2010. A gunman opened fire Sunday during a domestic dispute, killing two people and injuring four others before he was killed by police.

(AP Photo/Steve Helber)



AZ escapees, companion charged with murder in NM

By TIM KORTE,
Associated Press Writer

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Two escaped convicts from Arizona and a woman who accompanied them were charged with murder and carjacking Monday in the deaths of an Oklahoma couple who authorities said were targeted because of their camping trailer. Federal prosecutors in New Mexico filed

Former escaped fugitive John McCluskey arrives for his initial appearance at Apache County Superior Court Friday, Aug. 20, 2010 in St. Johns, Ariz. McCluskey escaped from a Kingman, Ariz. prison and has been on the lam since July 30th with his fiancée Casslyn Welch. Both were apprehended at an eastern Arizona campground on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest on Thursday, Aug. 19th.

(AP Photo/Matt York)

murder and carjacking charges against John McCluskey, 45; Tracy Province, 42; and their alleged accomplice, Casslyn Welch, 44. They're accused in the deaths of Gary and Linda Haas of Tecumseh, Okla.

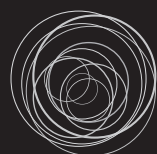
Authorities said the three fugitives saw the couple at a rest area along Interstate 40 in eastern New Mexico Aug. 2, three days after the men escaped from the Arizona State Prison in Kingman. An arrest warrant says the three were tired of traveling and sleeping in a car they stole in Flagstaff, Ariz., and decided "it would be a good idea to target someone driving a

camper or trailer."

Prosecutors say McCluskey shot and killed the couple inside their travel trailer. The three fugitives drove the truck and trailer to a remote area of New Mexico's Guadalupe County, where they unhitched, burned and abandoned the trailer, authorities said.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth Gonzales said at a news conference Monday that the Haases were traveling to Pagosa Springs, Colo., for a camping trip. He described them as "two people on vacation who happened to be at the wrong place at the wrong time." □





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9 killed on hijacked tourist bus



Police officer Gregorio Mendoza, younger brother of Rolando Mendoza who seized a tourist bus earlier refuses to go with the police on charges of conspiracy Monday, Aug. 23, 2010 at Manila's Rizal Park, Philippines. Police stormed the bus after shots were heard from the hostage-taker of 15 Chinese tourists and at least four of the hostages crawled out of the back door.

JIM GOMEZ,
Associated Press Writer
MANILA, Philippines (AP) — It looked like a hostage rescue in slow motion: Police creeping up on the bus with sledgehammers and smashing first one window, then another, then trying and failing to rip open the door. When they finally got inside,

authorities said, they found nine bodies: eight Hong Kong tourists and the ex-policeman who had seized the bus to demand his job back. The bloody denouement to the 12-hour drama in the heart of the Philippine capital, witnessed live on TV, rattled a country already accustomed to kidnappings and violence

blamed on Muslim rebels. It provoked demands from the Hong Kong government for an explanation, and an acknowledgment from Philippine President Benigno Aquino III that his police need more training and equipment. It was 10:15 a.m. Monday in Manila when Rolando Mendoza, 55 and married with three children, hitched a ride with the tourists as they visited historic sites in the city. He wore a camouflage uniform and carried an M16 rifle but didn't seem unusual in the heavily policed capital. Then he announced that he was taking the travelers hostage to win back his job. According to newspaper reports, the former senior inspector was among five

officers who had been charged with robbery, extortion and grave threats after a Manila hotel chef filed a complaint alleging they falsely accused him of using drugs to extort money. Mendoza was fired last year but claimed he was innocent.

With the bus parked on a Manila park parade ground, Mendoza stuck leaflets on windows, handwritten in English, saying "big mistake to correct a big wrong decision," demanding media attention and threatening "big deal will start after 3 p.m. today."

At first, matters proceeded peacefully.

The hijacker freed nine hostages — three women, three children and two men — leaving 15 tourists on board. Police sealed the area and brought food for the hostages, along with fuel to keep the bus' air conditioning running in the 32-degree-Celsius (90 F) heat.

Then negotiations began to go awry. Mendoza demanded a signed promise that his case would be reviewed, but its delivery was delayed for hours, in part by Manila's notorious traffic, and when it finally arrived he rejected it as insufficient.

The hijacker's brother Gregorio, a policeman, was flown in to talk to him through the driver's window but grew so agitated in claiming Mendoza had been unfairly sacked that police hustled him away, fearing he would inflame the situation.

That apparently angered Mendoza into firing a warning shot. Police made an initial attempt to board the bus, and the hijacker shot and wounded a police sharpshooter, said Nelson Yabut, head of the

assault team. Single shots, then a burst of automatic fire, echoed through the night.

The Filipino bus driver managed to escape and, according to police officer Roderick Mariano, reported that Mendoza had fired at the tourists.

A freed hostage who gave only her surname, Ng, told Hong Kong reporters that she saw her husband killed by Mendoza after he tried to take him on.

"He was very brave. He rushed forward from the back of the bus. He wanted to prevent the gunman from killing people. He sacrificed himself," she said.

Yabut, the assault commander, said that "when he started shooting the hostages, that's the time I gave the signal to my sniper to shoot when there is a clear view." He said Mendoza died of a single shot to the head.

Shortly before 9 p.m., police lobbed tear gas into the bus and commandos approached the vehicle, crouching beside it and ready to storm it. They smashed windows and the back door with sledgehammers. Once aside, they found only the dead, one of them slumped on the bus steps.

The Hong Kong government did not hide its displeasure at the handling of the incident. It issued a warning against travel to the Philippines, canceled planned tour groups to the islands and asked Hong Kong tourists still in the country to leave.

The bloodbath happened in front of a grandstand where Aquino had been sworn in as president on June 30. After midnight he was back there, staring at the bloodstained, bullet-riddled bus. □



Spanish hostages freed by al-Qaida arrive in Spain

MANU FERNANDEZ

Associated Press Writer

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Two Spanish aid workers kidnapped almost nine months ago by an al-Qaida affiliate arrived Tuesday in Barcelona after a multi-million-dollar ransom was reportedly paid for their freedom — a sign of the terrorist group's growing sophistication in bankrolling operations through kidnappings, experts said.

Aid workers Roque Pascual and Albert Vilalta were abducted last November when their convoy of 4-by-4s was attacked by gunmen on a stretch of road in Mauritania. They were whisked away to Mali, whose northern half is now one of the many stretches of remote desert where al-Qaida of Islamic Maghreb, or AQIM, has stretched its tentacles. Late on Monday afternoon, the pair stepped out of a helicopter that landed on the grounds of the presidential palace in Burkina Faso and were handed a cell phone. Reporters overheard them saying into the phone 'muchas gracias' — or many thanks. Spanish newspaper El Mundo

reported that Spain had paid €3.8 million in ransom to secure the aid workers' release. The government refused to comment.

The two men arrived early Tuesday in Barcelona where they were greeted at the airport by family members and government officials. Vilalta, who suffered multiple bullet wounds to his leg when he tried to flee his abductors on the day of the kidnapping, walked with the aid of a single crutch.

"Now we are free and I'm very happy and very moved," he said.

"For the rest of my life I will try to make up to you what I put you through," said Pascual, raising a clenched fist in the air in a sign of victory.

Both men thanked the Spanish government for its diplomatic efforts to free them.

Originally based in Algeria, AQIM had limited reach until 2006, when the organization, then called the Salafist Group for Call and Combat, brokered a deal with al-Qaida's leadership in the Middle East, allowing them to become in essence a franchise of the



Spanish aid worker, Roque Pascual, left, Spanish Secretary of State, Soraya Rodriguez, 2nd left, Albert Vilalta, 3rd left, and Spanish Ambassador, Cristina Diaz Fernandez-Gil, talk after leaving a helicopter in the grounds of the presidential palace in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso after their release Monday, Aug. 23, 2010.

Colombian rebels reiterate willingness to talk

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia's largest rebel group is offering dialogue on the country's conflict, saying in an Internet posting Monday that it is willing to present its ideas to a forum of South American leaders.

The government rejected the idea of any intermediaries and repeated its stance that negotiations will happen only if the rebels halt attacks and take other steps demonstrating a desire for peace.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, said in a statement on an affiliated website that it is willing to "search for a peaceful way out of the conflict." It offered to discuss its ideas before presidents whose countries belong to the Union of South American Nations.

The FARC has traditionally expressed willingness to discuss peace with Colombian governments, and at times has addressed such offers to the international community or bodies such as the United Nations.

Asked about the rebels' statement, Vice President Angelino Garzon repeated the government's stance that the guerrillas must first stop violent acts.

Garzon also reiterated that President Juan Manuel Santos believes "building paths to peace doesn't require intermediaries."

Santos, a former defense minister who took office earlier this month, has said his government is open to dialogue with the rebels, but only if they take concrete steps including halting armed attacks, freeing hostages and expressing a willingness to lay down their arms. □

larger terrorist network. Since then they have abducted Austrian, Swiss, Italian, French and Canadian nationals. Experts say the majority were released after multimillion dollar ransoms



In this photo released by Colombia's National Police Japanese citizen Masao Tsutsui stands at a police station in Cali, Colombia, after being released on Sunday, Aug. 15, 2010. Police said that officers rescued Tsutsui after suspected rebels of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC, abandoned him in a rural area near the southwestern city of Cali when special forces closed in. Officials said that the Japanese businessman, who immigrated to Colombia more than 30 years ago, was kidnapped by a crime ring in March that then sold him to leftist rebels.

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were paid, money that is being reinvested to grow the group's footprint.

In February 2008, AQIM abducted two Austrian tourists vacationing in Tunisia. They were released eight months later after the Austrian government paid \$5 million, according to reports in the Algerian press. In December of the same year, the group abducted Canadian national Robert Fowler, the U.N. special envoy to Niger, who was released after a reported \$8 million was paid, according to an article in the World Defense Review by Africa expert Peter Pham.

"It's clear that ransoms are being paid, since no political demand is usually made in connection with these kidnappings," said Pham, who is the senior vice president at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy and who recently traveled to Mauritania and Morocco in order to research the growth of the group.

"It would be illogical to assume that AQIM is carrying out these kidnappings and making no demands for their hostages. The dangerous innovation that we have seen in recent years is that the ransoms have gone beyond acting as startup money. It's

Associated Press

now been incorporated into their business model and has become a major component of their strategy," he said.

He pointed to the prisoner exchange that is believed to have taken place last week before the release of Pascual and Vilalta.

Soon after they were kidnapped on Nov. 29, Mauritanian commandos led a raid across the border into Mali, where the terrorist group is believed to have an operating base. There they seized Omar Ould Sid Ahmed Ould Hama. He was sentenced by a Mauritanian court to 12 years in prison for taking part in the kidnapping of the aid workers.

Just one week before they were freed, Hama was quietly extradited to Mali, where a diplomatic source at a Western embassy said he was handed back to AQIM. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak.

Hama, says Pham, is an example of the group's growing reach and its use of its new capital to recruit the most able fighters. Hama, who is from Mali, is neither Algerian nor Mauritanian — as was the case for the majority of the group's recruits in its early years. □

Supplies reach Chilean miners; now, the long wait

MAURICIO CUEVAS,
Associated Press Writer
COPIAPO, Chile (AP) — Trapped nearly half a mile inside the earth and facing perhaps four months before rescue, 33 Chilean miners began getting food, water and oxygen from above ground Monday as rescue teams worked to gauge their state of mind and brace them for the long wait ahead. Through a newly installed communications system, each of the men spoke and reported feeling hungry but well, except for one with a stomach problem, a Chilean official said. They requested toothbrushes.

It was a positive sign, and Chile's president said the nation was "crying with excitement and joy" after engineers broke through Sunday to the men's refuge. It had been 17 days since a landslide at the gold and copper mine caused a tunnel to collapse and entombed them more than 2,200 feet below ground.

Still, doctors and psychological experts were trying to safeguard the very sanity of the miners in the months to come, and said they were implementing a plan that included keeping them informed and busy. The miners reported that a shift foreman named Luis Urzua had assumed leadership of the trapped men.

"They need to understand what we know up here at the surface, that it will take many weeks for them to reach the light," Health Minister Jaime Manalich explained.

Dr. Sergio Aguila, a physician on the rescue team, said the miners reported during a later conversation that they fed themselves with cans of tuna, milk and biscuits stored in the shelter where they took refuge after a tunnel collapsed Aug. 5. "They had two little spoonfuls of tuna, a sip of milk and a biscuit every 48 hours," he said. He did not say how long the supplies lasted.

Officials released a portion of the recording of the afternoon conversation in which miners are heard singing Chile's national anthem with strong voices.

Engineers worked to reinforce the 6-inch-wide bore hole that broke through to the refuge, using a long hose to coat its walls with a metallic gel to decrease the risk of rock falling and blocking the hard-won passage through the unstable mine.

The lubricant makes it easier to pass supplies through in capsules nicknamed "palomas," Spanish for dove. The first of the packages, which are about 5 feet long and take about an hour to descend from the surface, held rehydration tablets and a high-energy glucose gel to help the miners begin to recover their digestive systems.

Rescue teams also sent oxygen down after the miners suggested there was not enough air in the stretches of the mine that run below where the main shaft collapsed.

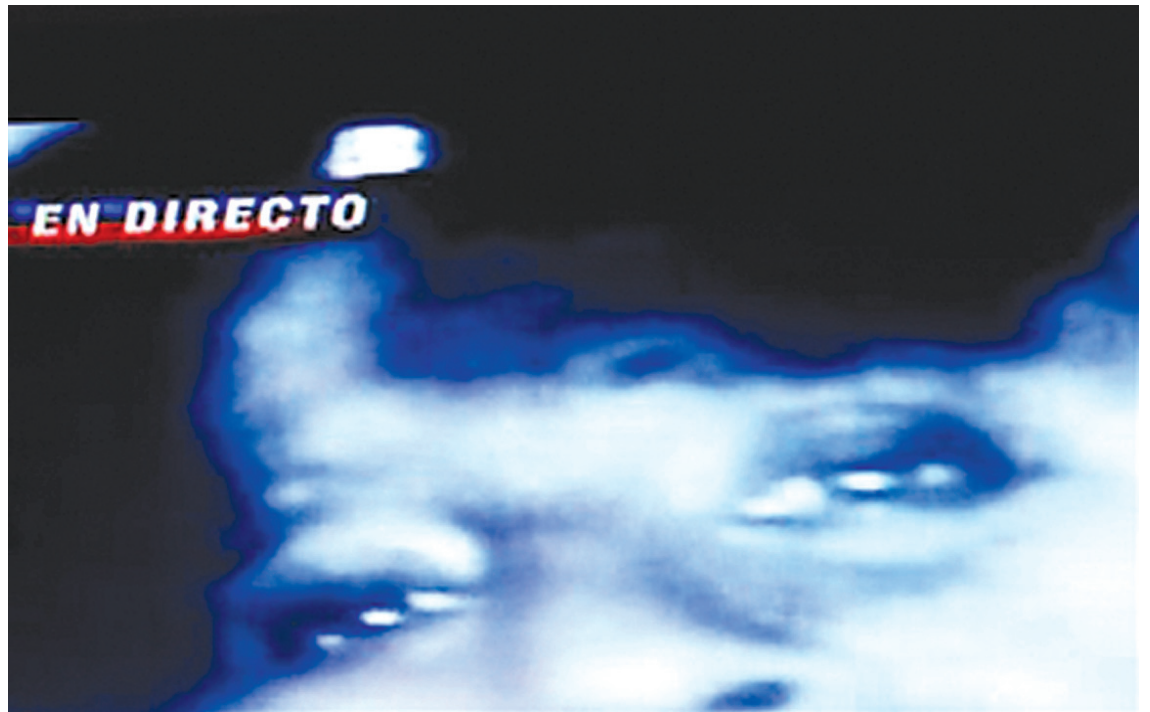
The shelter, a living-room-sized chamber off one of the mine's lower passages that is easily big enough for all 33 men, is far enough from the landslide to remain intact, and the men can also walk around below where the rocks fell. The temperature there is around 90 to 93 degrees (32-34 degrees Celsius).

Actual food will be sent down in several days, after the men's stomachs have had time to adjust, said Paola Neuman of the medical rescue service.

Rescuers also sent down questionnaires to determine each man's condition, along with medicine and small microphones to enable them to speak with their families during their long wait. Rescue leader Andre Sougarret said they were organizing the families into small groups to make their talks as orderly as possible.

Meanwhile, an enormous machine with diamond-tipped drills capable of carving a 26-inch-wide tunnel through solid rock and boring at about 65 feet a day was on its way from central Chile to the San Jose gold and copper mine, outside Copiapo in north-central Chile.

The machine was donated by the state-owned Codelco copper company and carried on a truck festooned with



This frame grab from TV channel shows one of 33 miners trapped in a mine during the first contact with a video camera in Copiapo, Chile, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010. A video camera lowered down the probe shaft showed some of the miners, stripped to the waist in the underground heat, waving happily. The miners have been trapped below the surface of the mine since the main access collapsed on Aug. 5 due to tons of falling rock.

Chilean flags. Just setting it up will take at least three more days.

Mining Minister Laurence Golborne said a second probe broke into the shelter Monday and will be used for communications while the first hole will be devoted to lower food and other supplies, including messages from relatives. A third probe is also nearing the shelter and will be used for ventilation, he said.

Besides their immediate physical needs such as medicine to restore their raw stomachs and sleep cycles, the rescuers were preparing psychiatric counseling. A first step was the questionnaires, which were also intended to help identify their natural leader — someone who can make sure the men are keeping busy and mentally focused.

Above ground, rescuers and family members thought that might be Mario Gomez, who at 63 is perhaps the oldest of the veteran miners down below. Gomez's letter to his wife, Liliana, which the miners tied to the drill bit, was full of expressions of faith and determination, revealing to the world that the miners were holding strong.

"Even if we have to wait months to communicate ... I want to tell everyone that I'm good and we'll surely come out OK," Gomez wrote,

scrawling the words on a sheet of notebook paper. "Patience and faith. God is great and the help of my God is going to make it possible to leave this mine alive."

But Urzua, 54, was the shift foreman at the time of the collapse, and Golborne said Monday that "it seems the miners respect hierarchies." For the miners' families, euphoria and anxiety made for a sleepless night. They shivered through the cold and fog in Chile's Atacama desert. "We stayed up all night long hoping for more news. They said that new images would appear, so we were up hoping to see them," said one, Carolina Godoy.

The men already have been trapped underground longer than all but a few miners rescued in recent history. Last year, three miners survived 25 days trapped in a flooded mine in southern China, and two miners in northeastern China were rescued after 23 days in 1983. Few other rescues have taken more than two weeks.

The miners' survival after 17 days is very unusual, but since they've made it this far, they should emerge physically fine, said Davitt McAteer, who was assistant secretary for mine safety and health at the U.S. Labor Department under President Bill Clinton.

"The health risks in a copper

and gold mine are pretty small if you have air, food and water," McAteer said.

Mine officials and relatives of the workers were determined not to give up hope that the men were safe below where the tunnel collapsed Aug. 5 at the mine, about 530 miles north of Santiago, the capital. Rescuers had drilled repeatedly in an effort to reach the shelter, but failed seven times. They blamed the errors on the mining company's maps. According to Gomez's note, at least some of those earlier probes were close enough that the trapped miners heard them. The eighth attempt finally worked.

Gomez wrote that the miners used vehicles for light and a backhoe to dig a channel to retrieve underground water. And while his message focused on faith and love for his family, his frustration also showed through. He wrote that "this company has got to modernize."

Chile is the world's top copper producer and a leading gold producer, and has some of the world's most advanced mining operations. But both the company that owns the mine, San Esteban, and the National Mining and Geology Service have been criticized for allegedly failing to comply with regulations. In 2007, an explosion at the San Jose mine killed three workers. □

Associated Press

Egypt deputy minister detained over van Gogh paintings theft

MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press Writer

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's top prosecutor on Monday ordered the detention of the deputy culture minister for four days in connection with the theft of a Vincent van Gogh painting, state media reported.

Thieves made off with the canvas, known by the titles of "Poppy Flowers" and "Vase with Flowers," on Saturday from the Mahmoud Khalil Museum in Cairo. None of the museum's alarms and only seven of 43 surveillance cameras were working at the time of the robbery.

The prosecutor general ordered the detention of Deputy Culture Minister Mohsen Shalaan and four of the museum's security guards while they are investigated on suspicion of neglect and professional delinquency, according to the state-run Middle East News Agency.

No charges have been filed. The prosecutor, Abdel-Meguid Mahmoud, implicated the deputy minister in the security lapses that he said led

to the theft because he has an office in the museum and is in charge of its financial and administrative affairs.

Shalaan "neglected his duties and didn't improve lax security measures by replacing the broken cameras and alarms," MENA quoted the prosecutor as saying.

The guards were accused of neglect for not checking museum visitors.

Ten other people were questioned and released Sunday but remain under investigation on similar accusations.

The van Gogh painting is worth an estimated \$50 million.

This is the second time the painting by the Dutch postimpressionist has been stolen from the museum. Thieves first made off with the canvas in 1978. Authorities recovered it two years later at an undisclosed location in Kuwait.

The 12-inch-by-12-inch (30-centimeter-by-30-centimeter) canvas, believed to have been painted in 1887, resembles a flower scene by the French

artist Adolphe Monticelli, whose work deeply affected van Gogh. The Monticelli painting also is part of the Khalil collection.

The prosecutor said his office had warned Egypt's museums last year to implement stricter security controls after nine paintings were stolen from another Cairo institute, the Mohammed Ali Museum. Similar security lapses were to blame in that theft.

Shalaan, the deputy minister, said he also warned in 2007 that cameras and alarms at the Mahmoud Khalil Museum were not working but that Culture Minister Farouk Hosni did not come through with resources to replace the equipment.

"I am not going to be a scapegoat for the minister," he was quoted as saying by the weekly Al-Youm Al-Sabaa newspaper.

He said he would present evidence that the minister was aware of the failing security at the museum, according to the paper's online edition.

Hosni has instructed ministry



This undated photo made available Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010 shows a Vincent van Gogh painting known by the titles of "Poppy Flowers" and "Vase with Flowers," which was stolen on Saturday from the Mahmoud Khalil Museum in Cairo, Egypt. None of the alarms and only seven out of 43 surveillance cameras were working at the Mahmoud Khalil Museum where the Vincent van Gogh painting worth an estimated \$50 million was stolen, Egypt's top prosecutor said Sunday.

Associated Press

officials to set up what he described as a central control room to monitor video from surveillance cameras in all Egyptian museums and link alarms into a single network, MENA reported.

The control room will be set up inside Cairo's historic Citadel, the fortress built by Saladin. Committees will also tour museums across the country to review security measures.

2 Russian border guards, 1 civilian dead in south

By ARSEN MOLLAYEV
Associated Press Writer A

MAKHACHKALA, Russia — The partly decapitated bodies of two Russian border guards and a forest worker have been found in the country's volatile south, officials said Monday.

The border guards were serving in Dagestan, a republic in the North Caucasus where law enforcement officers and other officials come under daily attack from militants. Authorities were working under the assumption that militants attacked the border guards.

At least three people were wounded in other attacks carried out Monday, while four suspected militants died when explosives they were transporting by car unexpectedly blew up, police said.

Some have linked the upsurge in violence to the killing in Dagestan over the weekend of an Islamic militant leader accused of organizing twin suicide bombings that killed 40 people on the Moscow subway in March.

On Monday, the deputy major of the Dagestani city of Kizlyar was badly wounded when he

was attacked by unknown gunmen outside the city administration building, police said.

A 5-year-old girl and 19-year-old woman were wounded in the city of Derbent when a nearby police post came under automatic weapons fire. Several stray bullets flew through the window of their house, police spokesman Vyacheslav Gasanov said.

Four people died when two cars exploded in separate parts of Dagestan. The victims in both cases were suspected of transporting explosives for use in terror attacks, Gasanov said.

The two border guards were last seen late Saturday when they drove away from their post's headquarters. One was found dead Sunday, and the other, a lieutenant colonel who commanded the local post, was discovered Monday, according to separate accounts from the border guards service and local police.

The civilian, also found dead Monday, had a job in the forestry sector, police spokesman Vyacheslav Gasanov said. The three had been almost decapitated, he said.

The border guard service said a second civilian

had disappeared with them, and the party of four had been traveling in two cars. His fate was unclear.

Russia has been fighting an insurgency in the North Caucasus following two wars in Chechnya in the past 15 years. The militants seek an Islamic emirate across the North Caucasus that adheres to Shariah law.

Rights activists say the attacks are in part provoked by extrajudicial killings, torture and kidnappings by police under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

Dagestan's leader appealed to President Dmitry Medvedev earlier this month to bolster security forces in the republic.

"We have seen an upsurge in terrorist activity," Magomedsalam Magomedov told the president during a televised meeting.

"Their aim is to disrupt the work of the organs of power, they try to sow panic among the population."

Ten days later, special forces killed Madomedali Vagabov and four other suspected militants. Vagabov was considered to have been second in command in the insurgency.

More than just the best pizza on the island...

Casa Tua's highlight of the day: Ossobuco that melts in your mouth

PALM BEACH - Located on Palm Beach in the Arawak Gardens, Casa Tua presents a fresh under-the-stars approach to dining in Aruba. The outdoor atmosphere is cool and relaxed; the name says it all "Casa Tua" meaning "Your Home" in Italian.

The menu varies with a wide array of Italian dishes including a Sicilian-style thin crust pizza dripping with cheese, fresh-made tomato sauce and a variety of toppings in the meat, seafood and veggie categories.

TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT of the menu is the *Ossobuco di Vitello con Tagliatelle* which is a mouth watering Veal Ossobuco (shank) stewed with red wine, parsley, Rosemary, oregano, onions and lemon juice served with the most unique Tagliatelle. After the first bite, patrons are seen pinching themselves to see if they are dreaming or actually taking a true bite of seventh heaven.

The menu doesn't stop there as Casa Tua features incredible appetizers including shrimp



bruschetta, fresh marinated seafood, escargots, amazing salads, homemade soups starting at \$8 and authentic Italian lasagnas & pastas starting at just \$13. The staff at this popular eatery has set the standard on the island for the term "great service" not only with your dining pleasure, but recognized as 'the' professionals in assisting guests with the perfect cocktail, paired wine or other beverages.

After just one dinner at Casa Tua, you'll know your home in this family owned eatery. Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu, or Profiteroles au Chocolat Chaud.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...

Opening Hours:

Dinner 5:30 PM - 10:30 PM

For more information or reservations please call Tel: (297) 586-8470

www.casatuaaruba.com



Fishes & More showcases the best seafood entrees

Ask about the Early Bird Menu from 4 PM to 6:30 PM



Fishes & More specialize in freshest fish and seafood on the island, and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to the fabulous dishes. Influences from all over

the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for the daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work

only with fresh and honest products! Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort (Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as they have a super kids menu, so they can enjoy their dinner as much as you

will yours!

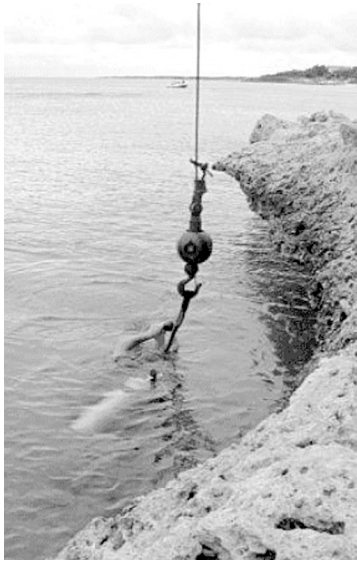
Enjoy live entertainment every night at 8PM, and even after dinner the perfect night out continues, as you can shop till you drop since the shops on our friendly

square are open until eleven. See what its like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist!

Open from 4 pm until midnight

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LOCAL Aruba TODAY



Aruba needs to preserve precious underwater world

ORANJESTAD - On Sunday the 14th of August during the ceremonies of the commemoration of the end of WWII 65 years ago, the prime minister handed over a letter to the SS Oranjestad committee for two "sites" where some WWII "monuments" will be erected to honor the history of WWII. Honoring the past and people who gave their lives for the country or for freedom is a noble and a good thing to do.

The artifacts such as the propeller and anchors were retrieved from Aruban territorial waters, but in particular from one war grave and these artifacts belong to the country of Aruba. So, the artifacts were not only collected illegally, (without a permit), but then a bargain deal was made with the government to take its own artifacts back in order to make these memorials otherwise these would have ended up elsewhere.

The artifacts were all salvaged while the decision to install them as monuments is awaiting the approval of the Government.

Continued on Next Page

New Baby Donkey Born At The Sanctuary



STA. LUCIA, Aruba - On Tuesday, August 17, Tootsie finally gave birth to a little girl. The baby's name is Boefie. We had been waiting a long time for the birth as we thought it would happen at the beginning of July. Tootsie was already pregnant when we picked her up off the street in April. She came to the Sanctuary with two other donkeys, Rambo and Kidsy. Boefie got her name from two very nice ladies who visited the Sanctuary back in May. They adopted her mother, Tootsie, and also decided to adopted the unborn baby.

They waited a long time for her arrival. Boefie has some trouble with her hind legs. They are very wobbly. She is getting extra vitamins to see if that will help. Her leg muscles are strong.

As you can see from the pictures, she is a very cute little donkey. You can visit Boefie at the Sanctuary located in Sta. Lucia. The hours are Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 10am to 3pm. □

Aruba needs to preserve precious underwater world



Continued from Page 11

There would not have been anything to negotiate if this adventure was brought to

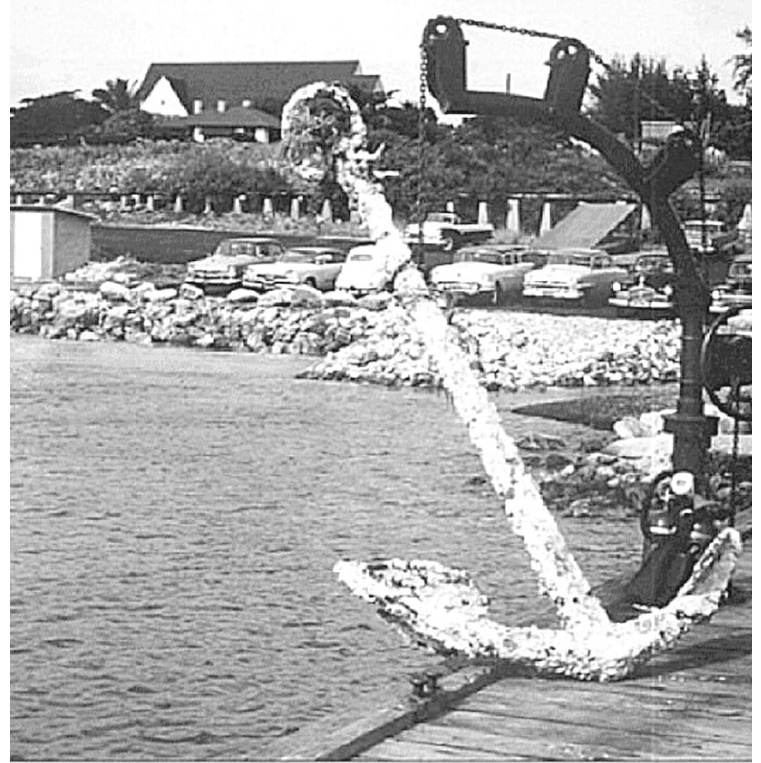
the attention of the proper authorities and the government was involved from the beginning. In the 1950's some



Dick de Bruin also cuts the chain to free the anchor for the lift.

anchors and canons were also "salvaged" in order to be donated to a museum, but today, 2010, nobody knows where these artifacts are and there is even a plea on the internet for information regarding these "lost" artifacts. Memorials could have been build without having to disturb the underwater environment and removal of these latest artifacts, in at least two of these cases were at perfect depths for scuba diving tourism. The propeller of the SS Oranjestad was removed April 2009 with the assistance of the coast guard. An anchor from the "Powell" was removed and place at the marine camp in Savaneta. One anchor dating back to the 1700's was removed on November 29th 2009. This time the Antilla, which is the second largest wreck in the Caribbean was plundered by the same dive team and this time one of the anchors of the Antilla was removed. Like a thief in the night, hush hush, the "team" went in and stole one of the anchors.

This dive site is where divers pay money every day to go to and as one of the few dive options on the north side of the island and well visited, it has been violated. And proudly they display their trophies on the internet. "YET ANOTHER ANCHOR RETRIEVED. Divers have inspected the Antilla on several occasions with the idea of finding one of its anchors in order to install it as a monument at Malmok to remind us all of Antilla's role during WWII, and at the same time as a contribution to Aruba's history. One of Antilla's anchors was found, but the divers had decided not to salvage it because it is surrounded by corals and beautiful sea lives. Then one day they swam further away from the Antilla and encountered another anchor that would fit the same purpose and this is the anchor they will be salvaging and use as a monument. As this anchor is sandblasted and cleaned the SS Oranjestad Memorial Committee continues to negotiate with the Aruba government to obtain



Anchor salvages in 1957



a location on which to build a monument to those who lost their lives while living and working in Aruba during World

War II and will incorporate the propeller salvaged from the Esso Oranjestad in that monument" □





Come Be A Star!

**Tuesday
Is Karaoke Night**

At Garufa Cocktail & Cigar Lounge
hosted by singer/entertainer Giovanni Trim

Featuring a large selection of songs in English, Dutch, Papiamentu & Spanish
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Presented by Johnny Walker

Heritage Cup "Keeps Walking" at Tierra del Sol



WEST PUNT -- Tierra del Sol Golf Pro Adam Williamson reports that many golfers brought their A game to Saturday's round #4 of the ongoing Heritage Cup tournament, unfolding at Tierra del Sol, as there was some excellent golf played

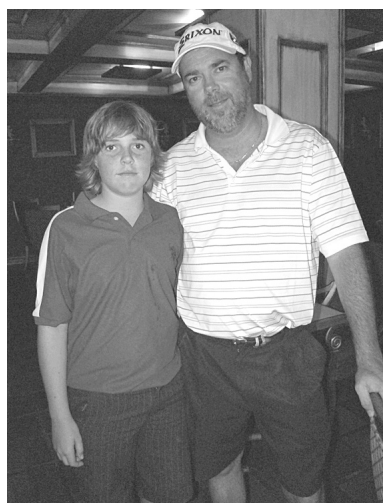
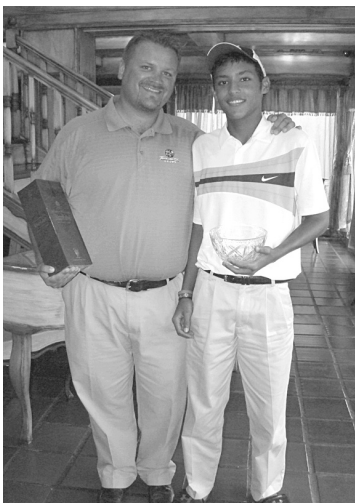
on the 18-hole championship course this past weekend. "You don't leave your prized stallion in the stable, if you want to win the Kentucky Derby," he banters referring to the high number of stableford points recorded, as many as 39 earned for

third-place standing. The Heritage Cup Tournament presented by Johnnie Walker held its fourth event Saturday afternoon, which yielded the final decision, as to who the top 30 players are, slated to compete for the coveted cup, on Saturday September 11th, during the final round. Third place finisher with 39 stableford points Giovanni van Wijk, climbed up the leader-board from 35th to 10th place, giving himself a fair chance to win. In second place Brian Bartok, collected 43 stableford points, moving from 27th to 6th position. First place winner Maurice De L'Isle with 44 stableford points and a bogey free

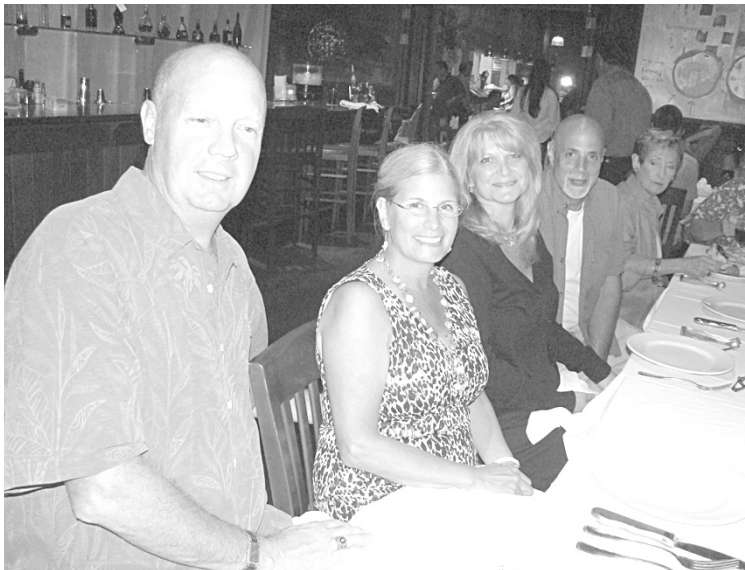


round of 3 under par 68, was the young Maurice's lowest round of golf in his golfing career, solidifying his position at the top of the Heritage Cup point list, and the number 1 ranked player in the final. But it is still far from over, Williamson adds, the top 30 players now have a reset in points that was awarded by order of ranking. Then with the reset of points and player performance in the finals, the Champion of the Heritage Cup by Johnnie Walker, will be decided. Remember, he concludes, all golfers are still welcome to participate in the final leg of

the Heritage Cup; there are still great prizes for the day's winners, so don't forget to sign up and be part of the Aruba's first golf series! Pictured here the award ceremony, round #4, at Amadeus Café in Tanki Leendert. □



Amazonia hosts a wedding rehearsal dinner



PALM BEACH -- Ed and Rita Whitney hosted a festive rehearsal dinner for 28 guests at Amazonia Churrascaria. The dinner party was very animated, as it took place on the eve of Andrea & Eric nuptials, scheduled to unfold on the beach at the Hyatt Regency the following evening. The two merging families came together for the first time, and loved the lavish

food display on the salad bar and the interaction with the Gauchos, Amazonia's meat carvers. While the bride Andrea Lee

and the groom Eric Cosentino, were taking out their friends for dinner, Ed & Rita entertained the balance of the wedding party in great style. □



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Aqua Grill... "the hip restaurant that is heaven on earth for seafood lovers," Fodor's Travel Guide



Among the island's many fine restaurants, Aqua Grill is the premier seafood sensation. Excitingly prepared in an open-view kitchen, fresh local catches join delicacies from waters abroad, including live Maine lobster, Norwegian salmon, sashimi tuna, and Alaskan king crab, along with a selection of non-seafood dishes.

Aqua Grill's award-winning chef offers a menu of classic and contemporary dishes. The fresh

seafood is prepared in a variety of regional styles, melding local island charm with the traditions of New England, the spices of Jamaica, the zesty flavors of Italy, the mystique of Indonesia, and beyond.

In addition to a selection of authentic dishes, your seafood can also be prepared wood-grilled, broiled, poached, steamed, or pan-fried upon request. Complimenting the menu is the island's

largest raw bar and a generous wine list of over one hundred selections.

Set in a contemporary decor combining the traditions of a New England fish house with the ease and character of the Caribbean, Aqua Grill's warm, island hospitality is the final ingredient to the complete dining experience on Aruba.

Open nightly from 6pm to 11pm, 5:00pm to 11:00pm on Sunday. □

Spectacular seafood special at Driftwood

From the pier to your plate at authentic Aruban seafood restaurant

ORANJESTAD - It's happening downtown. Established Driftwood Restaurant launches a serie of spectacular and delicious seafood specials, available now.

Driftwood is specialized in fresh seafood from the Caribbean Sea and has become the favorite spot for Aruban-style seafood dishes. Fresh fish is caught daily by the owner himself and



perfectly and authentically prepared by their talented local Chef.

Located in the heart of characteristic downtown, Driftwood offers you a unique dining experience. Enjoy the freshest fish, biggest shrimp, or the most succulent Caribbean lobster amid the rustic ambience of the natural driftwood dining room.

The authentic local seafood restaurant.

The menu includes a large variety of typically Aruban delicacies including a three star fish soup and a mouth-watering filet of fish served with a mild Aruban Creole sauce... a seafood lover's dream come true.

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Special of the month

Every month the Chef treats his customers with a delicious dinner special. In June one may choose from different soups, fish cakes or salads to start with. The main

course is a choice of catch of the day (prepared your way), Jumbo Shrimp or for the meatlovers Filet Mignon or Chicken Breast. The evening is topped with a grand dessert and coffee or tea.

Driftwood Restaurant

Klipstraat 12, Oranjestad

Reservations: **583 2515**

Email: info@driftwoodaruba.com

Website: www.driftwoodaruba.com



Special of the Month:
3-course dinner →
Appetizer - Entree - Dessert

\$24
per person



In this Aug. 20, 2006, file photo, Tiger Woods celebrates with wife Elin Nordegren after winning the 88th PGA Championship golf tournament at Medinah Country Club in Medinah, Ill. Woods and his wife are officially divorced.

Associated Press

Tiger Woods, wife officially divorced

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

Tiger Woods and his Swedish-born wife officially divorced Monday, nine months after his middle-of-the night car crash outside their home set off shocking revelations that the world's most famous athlete had been cheating on her through multiple affairs.

"We are sad that our marriage is over and we wish each other the very best for the future," Woods and Elin Nordegren said in a joint statement released by their lawyers.

The divorce was granted in Bay County Circuit Court in Panama City, Florida, about 375 miles away from their Isleworth home outside Orlando. The couple had married in October 2004 in Barbados and have a 3-year-old daughter, Sam, and a 19-month-old son, Charlie.

The marriage was described in court documents as "irretrievably broken" with no point in trying to reconcile. Terms of the divorce were not disclosed, except that they will "share parenting" of their two children.

Continued on Next Page

Nadal gets top seeding



NEW YORK (AP) — Seeking to complete the career Grand Slam, Rafael Nadal will be the top-seeded man when the U.S. Open starts next week, while Roger Federer will come to Flushing Meadows seeded second.

The women's seedings have been delayed one day because of a rainout of Sunday's final at the Rogers Cup in Montreal.

It appears, however, that Caroline Wozniacki will get the

top seed because Serena Williams, the world's top-ranked player, has withdrawn while recovering from surgery to repair cuts on her right foot.

Also missing will be defending men's champion Juan Martin del Potro, who remains sidelined because of a lingering wrist injury.

Seeded third for the men is Novak Djokovic, followed by Andy Murray at No. 4. □



This photo taken Nov. 21, 2009 shows Tiger Woods, his daughter Sam Woods and wife Elin Nordegren, before a NCAA college football game in Stanford, Calif. Woods and his wife are officially divorced. The lawyers for Woods and Nordegren said in a statement that the divorce became official Monday Aug. 23, 2010, in Bay County Circuit Court, in Panama City, Fla.

Associated Press

TIGER WOODS

Continued from Page B1

"We love Elin, and we are so proud of the grace and strength she has shown during this difficult time," Nordegren's father, Thomas Nordegren, a talk show host at national broadcaster Swedish Radio,

told The Associated Press.

"We know that she will come out of this even stronger and has a bright future in front of her."

The divorce was finalized by Bay County Circuit Judge Judy Pittman Biebel during a brief hearing in a conference room

in her chambers, according to Biebel's judicial assistant Kim Gibson. The hearing lasted no more than 10 minutes. Woods and Nordegren were present, along with their lawyers, Gibson said.

"I don't comment on active cases," Thomas J. Sasser, Woods' divorce attorney, said. When asked why they chose to file in Panama City, Sasser said it was a joint decision by the lawyers.

Nordegren's attorneys — which included her twin sister, London-based Josefin Lonnborg — referred all questions to the statement.

Woods' agent, Mark Steinberg, declined comment when asked if the couple had a prenuptial agreement or terms of the settlement. "We're not commenting beyond what was in the release," he said.

Nordegren's mother, Barbro Holmberg, also declined comment.

Nordegren, who once worked as a nanny for Swedish

golfer Jesper Parnevik, asked to have her maiden name restored as Elin Maria Pernilla Nordegren.

The couple signed a marital settlement agreement on July 3 and July 4, the weekend of the AT&T National outside Philadelphia, where Woods failed to break par in a PGA Tour event for the first time in 11 years.

The sordid sex scandal cost Woods three major corporate sponsors — Accenture, AT&T and Gatorade — worth millions of dollars, and he lost his image as the gold standard in sports endorsements. A month after the scandal became public, Woods spent two months in therapy at a Mississippi clinic with hopes of saving his marriage.

"While we are no longer married, we are the parents of two wonderful children and their happiness has been, and will always be, of paramount importance to both of us," they said in the statement. ...

"The weeks and months ahead will not be easy for them as we adjust to a new family situation, which is why our privacy must be a principal concern."

According to court documents, Woods completed the American Safety Institute's four-hour course on "Parent Education and Family Stabilization" on July 10, the day before he left to play the British Open at St. Andrews. Woods, who had won the previous two times at St. Andrews by a combined 13 shots, tied for 23rd.

Nordegren completed her four-hour class through FloridaParentingClass.com on Aug. 16, the day after Woods tied for 28th in the PGA Championship at Whistling Straits.

Documents also show the two children lived at their primary home at Isleworth until November 2009 — Woods crashed his SUV over the fire hydrant and into a tree on Nov. 27 — and that Nordegren had moved out to a nearby residence since then.

Woods is to play this week at The Barclays, where he needs a good performance to extend his PGA Tour season and try to show he is worth picking for the Ryder Cup. It will be his first tournament as a single man since he finished ninth in a World Golf Championship in Ireland in October 2004.

Since returning to golf at the Masters, Woods has not come close to winning a tournament. He tied for fourth in the Masters and in the U.S. Open, both times taking himself out of contention early in the final round.

One example of how the impending divorce has affected him came last month when he played in a charity pro-am in Ireland, which ended on Tuesday. Instead of staying overseas to practice on links courses, Woods flew home to Florida for six days to see his children, then returned to Scotland for the British Open.

Woods has won 82 times worldwide — 36 times and six majors while married — in his professional career. His last victory came at the Australian Masters on Nov. 15, his last trip before his serial infidelity was uncovered. □

Funk wins Tradition for second time in 3 years

SUNRIVER, Oregon (AP) — Fred Funk won the Jeld-Wen Tradition for the second time in three years, closing with a 3-under 69 on Sunday for a one-stroke victory over Michael Allen and Chien Soon Lu in the fourth of the Champions Tour's five majors.

Funk took the lead for good with a 15-foot birdie putt on the 598-yard, par-5 16th, then two-putted from 40 feet for par at 18 to finish at 12-under 276 on the Sunriver Resort's Crosswater Golf Club course.

Allen shot a 67, and Lu had a 69.

Eight players were tied or had the outright lead at some point on the back nine. When the final group had five holes left, 12 players were within two strokes.

Funk, who won the third Champions major of his career, began the round two strokes behind third-round leader Tom Lehman. Funk was in contention throughout the day, at one point making seven consecutive pars before his birdie at 16.

Funk's 276 total is the highest winning score in the Tradition since 2002, when Jim Thorpe won at Desert Mountain at 11-under 277. Lu had a chance to tie Funk at 18, narrowly missing a 40-foot chip shot for birdie. Allen reached 12 under after a birdie at 15, but gave a stroke back with a bogey at 16.

Lehman (73) and Mark Calcavecchia (66) tied for fourth at 10 under.

Bernard Langer, attempting to become the second player in Champions Tour history to win three consecutive majors, shot a 73 to tie for 10th at 8 under.

This is expected to be the last year Crosswater Club will host the Tradition. Jeld-Wen announced in August that it was ending its relationship as title sponsor, and the Champions Tour is expected to announce its plans for the tournament this week. □



Fred Funk holds the trophy after winning the Jeld-Wen Tradition golf tournament in Sunriver, Ore. on Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010.

Associated Press

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Wozniacki beats Zvonareva in Rogers Cup final

MONTREAL (AP)—Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark won the rain-delayed Rogers Cup on Monday, beating Vera Zvonareva 6-3, 6-2.

The 20-year-old Wozniacki is ranked second in the world and, with No. 1 Serena Williams out with an injury, likely will be the top seeded player when the U.S. Open starts Aug. 31. She is seeking her first Grand Slam title.

"I never think about that — I just try to win every match," she said. "We'll have to see what happens. Right now, I want to enjoy winning this tournament. It gives me a

lot of confidence to win a tournament like this — it's a huge tournament."

The Rogers Cup final was held a day late after a weekend of relentless rain.

Zvonareva, a Wimbledon finalist, was clearly off her game. The eighth-seeded Russian at times let out shrieks after misfiring on routine shots. Wozniacki's groundstrokes, meanwhile, were hitting the lines with their usual sharpness.

She picked up her third title of the year, after wins at Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, and at her home tournament in

Copenhagen.

"I did what I had to do," said Wozniacki, a first-time Rogers Cup champion.

Leading 5-3 in the first set, Wozniacki fell behind 0-40. But she responded with five straight points to close the set. After breaking serve for a 5-2 lead in the second, Wozniacki wrapped it up with four straight points on her serve, gave a little fist pump and walked up to shake hands with her opponent.

Wozniacki took the \$350,000 winner's prize while Zvonareva got \$175,000.

The semifinals were played in



Caroline Wozniacki from Denmark kisses the trophy after beating Vera Zvonareva of Russia in the final at the Rogers Cup tennis tournament Monday, Aug. 23, 2010 in Montreal.

Associated Press

Dementieva, Petrova advance at Pilot Pen

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut (AP) — Nadia Petrova of Russia rallied to beat Varvara Lepchenko of the United States 1-6, 7-5, 6-1 in the opening round of the Pilot Pen tennis tournament.

Petrova was a late addition to the field after an ankle injury forced Ana Ivanovic to withdraw.

Elena Dementieva almost missed the start of her first-round match and had to be tracked down on the practice courts. She then went out and beat Maria Jose Martinez Sanchez in straight sets, 6-1, 6-2.

Lucky loser Dominka Cibulkova upset Melanie Oudin 6-2, 5-7, 6-4. Cibulkova was a late replacement in the draw, after Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova withdrew Sunday with a hip injury. In the men's draw, Donald Young beat Stephane Robert 6-1, 6-2. James Blake plays later Monday, before the featured match between Dinara Safina and French Open champion Francesca Schiavone. □



Nadia Petrova, of Russia, serves to Yaroslava Shvedova, of Kazakhstan, during the Mercury Insurance Open tennis tournament in Carlsbad, Calif., Tuesday, Aug. 3, 2010.

Associated Press

the morning. Wozniacki beat Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-2, 6-3, and Zvonareva advanced when her opponent, 10th-seeded Victoria Azarenka of Belarus, retired with a blister on her left foot. Zvonareva led 7-6, 1-0.

Trainers worked on Azarenka's foot for several minutes. She got up and tried to walk, but immediately sat back down.

She said the injury was not severe enough to keep her out of the U.S. Open.

"I don't see how I got a blister after sitting on my (rear end) for two days," said Azarenka, who was in tears as she spoke to reporters after the match. "I tried to deal with it, but I couldn't continue."

Wozniacki and the 11th-seeded Kuznetsova completed a semifinal that began Saturday and was stopped due to rain with Wozniacki leading 2-0, 0-15.

Zvonareva played her semifinal on the National Bank Court, a smaller venue adjacent to Centre Court, contributing to her problems in the final.

"It was a different court, different conditions," she said. "It was difficult to keep my concentration. I was preparing to play Victoria for two days and they have absolutely different styles. In the final, I was still playing shots I would use in the semifinals. My head was not in the final." □



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Nats' Strasburg going back on DL, to have 2nd exam



Washington Nationals' starting pitcher Stephen Strasburg throws against the Philadelphia Phillies in the second inning of a baseball game Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010, in Philadelphia.

By JOSEPH WHITE

AP Sports Writer

WASHINGTON — Stephen Strasburg is headed back to the disabled list, and his prized right arm will undergo yet another examination that will largely determine whether he

pitches again this season.

The Washington Nationals rookie will have a second MRI exam to see if anything more than a strained tendon in his forearm caused him to grimace after throwing a changeup in Saturday's game

at Philadelphia. Strasburg was removed from the game and underwent an MRI on Sunday.

The MRI "showed some things on there that led us to set up another MRI," general manager Mike Rizzo said Monday. The GM said the upcoming test will be done in the "next day or two" and will use an injection of dye that

should render "a full view of what's going on in there."

For now, the Nationals are still calling Strasburg's injury a flexor strain in his throwing arm. He had been scheduled to start again Thursday, but instead will find himself on the disabled list for the second time in less than a month. The Nationals are expected to soon make the move official.

"He's anxious to find out what's going on," Rizzo said. "He felt good today. His elbow felt good. ...

To say he's little anxious, a little emotional would be fair to say."

Strasburg, who is 5-3 with a 2.91 ERA and 92 strikeouts in 68 innings, was hurt while making his third start since returning from the disabled list because of inflammation in the back of his right shoulder. Rizzo said Strasburg arrived at Nationals Park on Monday hoping do some throwing. The Nationals, who have been extremely cautious with Strasburg's development, told him no. Strasburg has told the team he had a similar problem in college at San Diego State and pitched through it. He was the overall No. 1 pick in the 2009 draft.

"It's discouraging for Stephen," manager Jim Riggleman said. Rizzo wouldn't speculate on whether Strasburg could be shelved for the season, saying the team will wait for the results on the next test and take a "prudent course of action after that."

Fellow Nationals starter John Lannan also had swelling around his flexor tendon earlier this season and missed one start.

The Nationals have been careful to limit the innings and take every other precaution with their 22-year-old phenom — he was taken out of a game recently because of a protest in the outfield that delayed the game for a few minutes.

Riggleman is familiar with promising pitchers who flame out early, having managed a young Kerry Wood with the Chicago Cubs. Riggleman said it's important to properly deal with the "red flags" that arise early.

"It just seems like pitchers get to a point where they're past all the issues, guys like Livan (Hernandez) and Miguel (Batista)," Riggleman said. "It just seems like it's the way it goes with these young pitchers." □



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Serbia's player Nenad Krstic watches his team before a friendly basketball match Serbia against China, in Belgrade, Serbia, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010.

Associated Press

DUSAN STOJANOVIC
Associated Press Writer
BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Oklahoma City Thunder center Nenad Krstic said Monday he fears a basketball world championship suspension following a bench-clearing brawl during a match between

Serbia's Krstic fears FIBA punishment after brawl

Serbia and Greece.

Krstic, of Serbia, left Greek player Yannis Bouroussis with a bloodied head after hitting him with a chair in the fight that broke out during the Acropolis tournament last Thursday in Athens, leading to the game being abandoned. FIBA, the international basketball federation, said it will review the violence and announce possible sanctions by Wednesday.

"It's not killing me, but I can't say I'm not a bit nervous," Krstic said of a possible suspension. "What keeps me calm is that I no longer can do anything about it."

Krstic said earlier that he picked up the chair in self-defense after Greek fans and players rushed toward him. The incident occurred ahead of

the Aug. 28-Sep. 12 basketball world championship in Turkey, where both teams will play.

Another Serbian player who could face sanctions, Milos Teodosic, said he was sorry about the incident.

"Sincerely, I'm ashamed about the fight, and I apologize to the people in Greece and Serbia," Teodosic, who plays for Greek side Olympiakos, said.

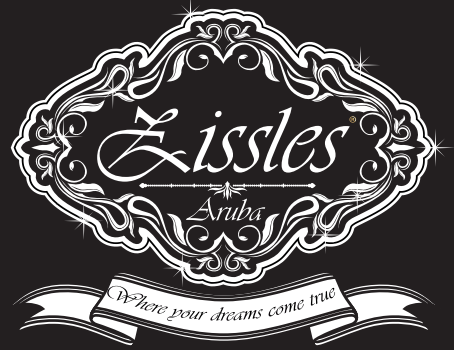
Serbia coach Dusan Ivkovic said if Krstic and Teodosic are suspended, "We won't be able to make it through the group stage." Serbia, the runner-up at the European championship last year, plays in Group A with Angola, Argentina, Australia, Germany and Jordan. Greece, second at the last worlds in 2006, is in Group C with China, Ivory Coast, Puerto Rico, Russia and Turkey. □

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Damon claimed by Red Sox, deciding whether to go

DETROIT — It's all up to Johnny Damon now: Play out the season in Detroit, or rejoin the Boston Red Sox for another playoff chase. The Red Sox have claimed the 36-year-old outfielder on waivers from the Tigers, and Damon was deciding Monday whether to go. Once a fan favorite at Fenway Park, he's been booed there ever since he defected to the rival Yankees.

Damon had a little time to make up his mind — teams have 48 hours to work out a deal.

"I've got a lot to think about," he said before Detroit played Kansas City. "On top of everything else, I've got to be ready to hit a baseball tonight."

Damon has hit .270 with seven home runs and 40 RBIs during his first season in Detroit.

His contract includes a clause that gives him veto power over trades to all but eight teams. Because the Red Sox aren't one of those clubs, he can block any move.

Damon was a hero in Boston in 2004 when he helped the Red Sox win their first World Series championship. But he was no longer so popular two years later when he became a free agent and went to

New York.

Boston began the day 6 1/2 games behind the Yankees in the AL East and 5 1/2 games behind Tampa Bay for the wild-card lead. Detroit was 11 games behind Minnesota in the AL Central and far from wild-card consideration.

"I had a great time playing there, and I did everything I could to go back," he said. "I told the team what it would take, in terms of dollars and years — but it got ugly when it became apparent that re-signing me wasn't a priority."

Damon said that the broken relationship with the Boston fans has "absolutely" left a scar on his psyche, and he knows accepting a move back to the Red Sox could fix that, especially if he could help them make a late playoff run.

"If I do this, and we pulled everything together and I could help them get into the postseason, it would change everything again," he said. Damon's old teammates in Boston seemed eager to have him back.

Red Sox slugger David Ortiz asked whether Damon got to choose his team. Told yes, Ortiz brightened.

"Really. Let me call him right now," he kidded. "I can say one thing and he'd

be back. I guarantee you just one thing."

"It would be great. You know Johnny Damon's always been a great person to be around," he said. "Let's wait to see what's going to happen."

Normally fairly stoic, Red Sox captain Jason Varitek smiled when talking about Damon.

"Johnny knows how I feel about him today and always have. It's wishful thinking right now," he said.

"He's pushing Hall of Fame type numbers and you add what he's done in the clubhouse and on the field. I never wanted to see him leave here. It would be a nice opportunity," he said. "Bedsides being a great player, he's an example with how he plays hurt and he plays the game right. He pushes energy. He's an exciting player."

Damon has consistently said that he wants to stay with the Tigers, and he repeated that stance Monday.

"I like playing here and I love the fans," he said. "I'm enjoying playing with these kids and for this coaching staff."

The Tigers could work out a trade with Boston to complete the deal if Damon gives the OK, and that might bring the Tigers a prospect



Detroit Tigers' Johnny Damon tips his cap as he gets a standing ovation from New York Yankees fans in his first at-bat against the Yankees in a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Monday, Aug. 16, 2010.

Associated Press

in return.

"The reason I would consider this is to help out this team in the future," he said. "I love the Tigers organization."

Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski declined comment on any moves.

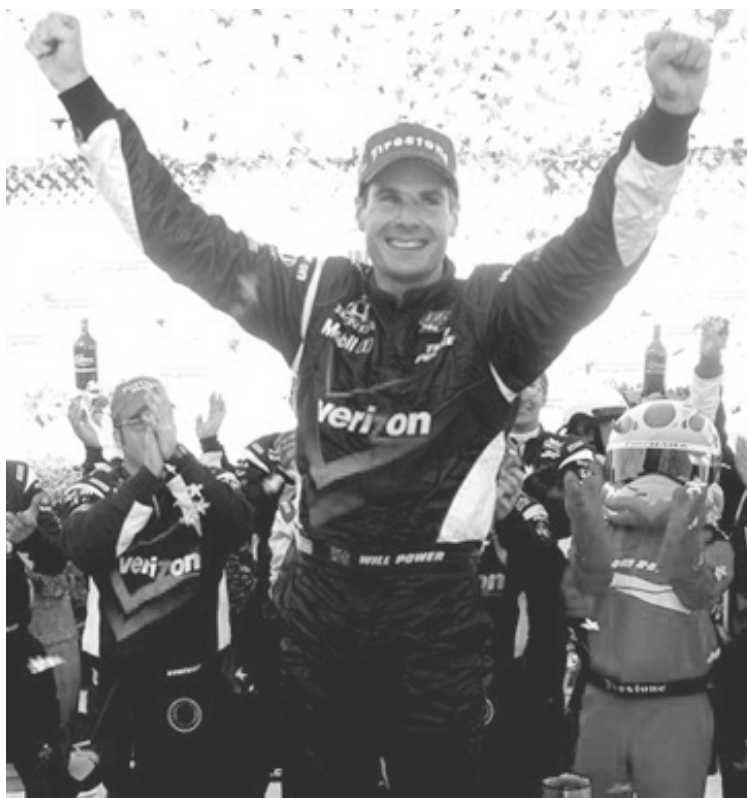
About 90 minutes after getting the word of a possible move, Damon had obviously begun his research. He knew Boston's exact position in the wild-card race and precisely how many games they have left with the Yankees and Rays. "Johnny is a good player. I'm not sure what Johnny

is going to do," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said in Toronto. "Johnny was part of a world championship there. He seemed to be really appreciated by the fans there. I guess he has an option not to go, right? So you just kind of wait and see."

Still, he was glad that he'd have days, not hours, before having to give the Tigers and Red Sox a final decision.

"This is probably as tough of a decision for me as it was to leave Boston for New York," he said. "Fortunately, there is some time to think about it." □





IndyCar driver Will Power of Australia celebrates after winning the Indy Grand Prix of Sonoma, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010 at Infineon Raceway in Sonoma, Calif.

Associated Press

Power pads series lead with win at Sonoma

JOHN MARSHALL

AP Sports Writer

SONOMA, California (AP) — Australia's Will Power won at the track he had to be airlifted from a year ago, extending his IndyCar Series lead with a dominating run Sunday at Infineon Raceway.

Power never made it to race day in 2009, his weekend and season over with a practice session crash that left him with a broken back. "Unbelievable. I watched this race from a hospital bed last year," Power said. "I said it all year, I'm coming back to win this because I thought this track owes me because of what happened." The Team Penske driver never showed any sign of fear in his return to Sonoma. Power set an IndyCar record with his eighth pole of 2010 on Saturday and led 73 of 75 laps over the technically-demanding 2.3-mile circuit through the hills of the California wine country. Power pushed his series lead to 59 points over Scotland's Dario Franchitti, who finished third behind Scott Dixon of New Zealand. Ryan Briscoe was fourth.

"It's a fairly large deficit, but it's four tracks we've run well on," said Franchitti.

"There's places we've done very well at. I don't underestimate the challenge. Will's going to be very strong. A lot of people are kind of writing him off because of his lack of experience on the ovals, but I think he'll be up there. We just have to do a better job."

Power's previous memories of Sonoma weren't so good. Driving in a practice session last year, the Aussie came flying over a hill and didn't have time to react to Nelson Philippe's stalled car. Power hit him straight on and had to be airlifted from the track, his back and teeth broken, the season over.

Team Penske stuck with Power through his long rehabilitation and he's rewarded the loyalty with an impressive third IndyCar season.

The 29-year-old Power came into Sonoma

with the inaugural IndyCar Series road course championship locked up thanks to four non-oval victories and had built a 41-point lead over Franchitti, the defending series champion.

Power found speed when he needed it in knockout qualifying, sneaking out of the second round with a fast last lap, then locking up his record-breaking pole with another quick turn around the hard-to-find speed course late in the final session.

He really wanted a win at Sonoma, in part because of last year's accident, but also because he'd like to build a little points cushion with the season's final four races all on ovals.

It's not that Power can't drive ovals. He's been picking up the nuances of turn-left-only racing, finishing eighth at Indy and fifth at Iowa. Franchitti, though, is a going-in-circles vet, with two Indianapolis 500 titles under the hood, so the more padding Power can get going into those final races, the better.

Power got just what he wanted, racing off from the green and building a nearly 6 second lead before Milka Duno caused a caution with a spinout on Lap 32. The lead was back up over 5 seconds after another caution, then Power lost it on Lap 56 when he went into the pits and Dixon didn't. Two laps later, Dixon went into the pits and Power was back up front, followed by Franchitti.

That was it.

Power gradually pushed the lead back up and held off Dixon after another pack-bunching spinout, coming around the final turn slowly for a local caution to notch his sixth career victory and a comfortable into-the-stretch lead.

"We felt we were in a good position to maybe challenge Will and get close to him and maybe win the race and take some points away from him that way," Dixon said. "We didn't have enough; obviously, Will won the race. We probably didn't help Dario's chances in that, so that was probably the downside to today." □



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U.S. sweeps 10k races at Pan Pacific meet

LONG BEACH, California (AP) — Americans Chip Peterson and Christine Jennings won the 10-kilometer open water races at the Pan Pacific swimming championships.

Peterson won the men's race in 1 hour, 56 minutes, 2 seconds Sunday at Marine Stadium, home of the 1932 Olympic rowing competition.

Richard Weinberger of Canada led with two kilometers to go, with Peterson and teammate Fran Crippen in close pursuit. Peterson broke out first and out-touched Crippen and Weinberger at the finish.

Crippen took the silver in 1:56:02.74, while Weinberger earned the bronze in 1:56:02.98.

"I know the Americans the best and they were all behind me so I was thinking if I can get in the lead here and break away a little bit and make some of those guys work that it would benefit me in the



Chip Peterson swims during the men's 10k open water final at the Pan Pacific Swimming Championships, Sunday, Aug. 22, 2010, in Long Beach, Calif. Peterson won the event.

Associated Press

end," Peterson said.

Jennings won the women's race in 2:00:33.83. Teammate Eva Fabian was second in 2:00:35.76.

Melissa Gorman of Australia earned the bronze after Americans Emily Bruneman and Haley Anderson finished

third and fourth. Pan Pacific rules prohibit a country from having more than two swimmers on the podium.

"It means a lot," Jennings said. "I'm just really excited. I had so many people behind me totally backing me up."

American Chloe Sutton, who

also swam in the Pan Pac pool events, was disqualified more than an hour into the race after receiving her second yellow card, resulting in a red card and the disqualification. The referees ruled that the infraction was the same each time and said that Sutton

pulled on a turn buoy.

"It's not a big deal," she said. "I already got a gold and a silver medal this week and this race was just for fun."

The United States closed out the five-day meet with a leading 51 medals, including 27 gold. □



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Senior League World Champions

Aruba's teenage heroes welcomed home with parade



It was a storybook ending at the Senior League World Series championship game. Saturday afternoon, as San Nicolas, Aruba, defeated the Bangor All-Stars 8-1 before a throng of 3,000 fans at Mansfield Stadium.

"It's been unbelievable," said Bangor shortstop Nic Cota after the nationally televised final. "It's every sports kid's dream to be on ESPN and we did it. All we had to do was believe, and we did."

"Even though we didn't come out on top, we really did because we did the best we could."

So, too, did the team representing Latin America, a melding of players from a Aruba Senior League program that also reached the semifinals here a year ago and from a Junior League (ages 13-14)

team that lost in its 2009 World Series championship game.

"It's an unforgettable moment," said Aruba catcher Chadwick Tromp, who capped off a game-clinching five-run rally in the top of the seventh inning against Bangor with a two-run homer. "I won't forget this. I won't forget this. It's unbelievable."

Aruba, 5-1 in this year's SLWS, ultimately outlasted Bangor with pitching, defense and two big innings.

The primary difference-maker was 15-year-old pitcher Shawn Duinker, a 6-foot-3, 200-pound righthander who struck out five batters and walked just two during an economical 78-pitch complete-game performance.

"I knew Bangor was a great hitting team," said Duinker. "I



saw them play [in the semifinals] Friday, I was sitting in the stands scouting to see what they could hit.

"But all my pitches were working great today, my fastball, my curve, and my splitter."

Duinker was supported by an errorless defense that produced 13 Bangor outs on ground balls and turned three double plays.

"I knew they were going to attack my fastball," said Duinker. "So I started them off with a curve or splitter and let them hit the ball so my fielders could make the plays."

Yet Bangor, which rallied from a 3-0 deficit in each of its two previous win-or-stay-home games to reach the final, wasn't without a major-league chance to pull off one more comeback in the title game after Aruba had taken its own 3-0 lead by scoring three runs on four hits in the top of the first inning.

Dylan Morris battled Duinker for an eight-pitch walk to open the Bangor fifth, then Josiah Hartley popped a single to shallow center and Cota got an infield hit off Duinker's glove to load the bases with no one out.

"We thought we were going to do it again," said Bangor center fielder Christian Corneil, "but we knew we needed to capitalize

right here, because this was the big moment in the game."

Seth Freudenberger then flared an 0-2 pitch toward shallow right-center field, but Jiandido Tromp ranged back, timed his jump perfectly and made the catch for the first out.

"That last pitch jammed me a little bit," said Freudenberger. "I was hoping I could muscle it out, but the second baseman made a good read on it and made a good play."

"If that one drops," added Aruba manager Gregory Manuel, "we're in trouble." Cody Savage then drove home Morris with Bangor's lone run on a fielder's choice grounder to shortstop before Duinker



escaped further damage with an inning-ending strikeout.

"I told my pitcher when they loaded the bases that a ground ball is a double play, a fly ball is one run instead of two, and a double maybe will clear the bases but we still wouldn't be down yet," said Chadwick Tromp. "I told him to let them put the ball in play so we could make plays and make outs."

Aruba finally broke the game open with five unearned runs in the top of the seventh off Hartley, who had just come on after Savage pitched the first six innings. A walk, an infield error and a hit batter loaded the bases with one out before Duinker drove home a run with a fielder's choice grounder to extend the

Aruba lead to 4-1. Juan Carlos Moncion followed with a two-run double to center before Tromp's blast over the fence in left-center.

"We saw the last game they won against the West when they were behind 3-0 and came back to win 9-3, so we said to ourselves that's not enough runs," said Tromp. "We had to get more runs, and we did."

Duinker then yielded a one-out single to Hartley in the bottom of the seventh, but capped off Aruba's pursuit of its first Senior League world championship by getting Cota to line out to Jiandido Tromp at second base to start a game-ending double play.

"I know the team from Bangor is a team with a lot of spirit," said Manuel. "They like to come back, but I told our guys with the team we have we have a good pitcher and we have a good defense, so if we got ahead we could keep them down and become World Series champions."

Aruba jumped on Savage, the Bangor starter, for three runs on four hits in the top of the first. Duinker provided the big blow of the uprising, a one-out, two-run double.

"It started the same way the [semifinal] against California did, they got a couple of bloopers and the next thing you knew they've



got three runs," said Bangor manager Ron St. Pierre. "You just can't spot a team like that three runs in a championship game."

Yet Savage quickly settled down, holding Aruba scoreless on three hits during the rest of his six-inning stint. Savage finished allowing seven hits and three runs while striking out two and walking two.

"Cody threw the best game of his life, I think," said Cota. "The first inning was a little shaky, but we've been down 3-0 the last two games and battled back."

That Bangor couldn't battle back one last time was due largely to Duinker, his pitch count kept down by a five-pitch

third inning and a four-pitch fourth that helped him stay well under the Senior League single-game limit of 95 pitches.

"He pounded the strike zone a lot, he pitched a good game, and he got the double plays," said Freudenberger. "Two of those times we got the leadoff runner on, and then bang-bang they get a double play and that kills innings and keeps this pitchcount down, too."

Duinker also paced Aruba's nine-hit offense with a double, single and three RBIs, while Hartley singled twice for Bangor, which finished the tournament with a 4-2 record after never winning more than one game in any of its previous six trips to the SLWS.



'Avatar' returns to 3-D theaters worldwide Friday



In this film publicity image released by 20th Century Fox, the character Neytiri, voiced by Zoe Saldana, and the character Jake, voiced by Sam Worthington are shown in a scene from, 'Avatar.'

(AP Photo/20th Century Fox)

By SANDY COHEN,
AP Entertainment Writer
SANTA MONICA, Calif. — Before he takes moviegoers deep beneath the Pandoran sea, James Cameron hopes they'll go for an extended tour of the fictional planet he introduced in "Avatar."

"Avatar: Special Edition," which includes 9 minutes of new footage, opens in 3-D theaters worldwide Friday.

"I'm trying to use the technology to keep people interested and enthused about the 'Avatar' universe, because it's going to be a long time before we get another 'Avatar' movie done," the filmmaker said in a recent interview.

Cameron, 56, already has plans for the "Avatar" sequels.

He's also got a submarine to build, cameras for the Mars rover to design, an underwater 3-D camera to upgrade and maybe even an ocean-related feature to make.

But first, he had to select and perfect new "Avatar" footage and persuade distributor 20th Century Fox to rerelease the film theatrically in 3-D.

Cameron said there are "hundreds of thousands, if not millions" of people who wanted to see the movie in

3-D but didn't get the chance because "Avatar" was edged out of 3-D theaters by other scheduled 3-D releases. Since then, the number of available 3-D screens has doubled internationally, he said.

Fox executives said in a statement that they have been "inundated with requests to rerelease the film in theaters in 3-D" since it wrapped its original run in March.

"Avatar" boasts the biggest box-office take in history, collecting \$2.7 billion worldwide.

Bringing the movie back to the big screen is an experiment inspired by initial fan response to the movie, Cameron said.

"It was the most pirated film in history at the same time it was the most attended film in movie theaters," he said, adding that some who saw the movie on DVD or on their computer screens may want to enjoy it in all its big-screen, 3-D glory.

The new footage is sprinkled throughout the movie. One bit focuses on the death of one of the planet's native humanoids, the tailed, blue Na'vi. His death is hinted at in the original film, but in the extended version, "We actually see him die,"

Cameron said.

"Not like he splats to the ground, but how they gather around him afterwards," he said. "It's this big emotional scene and it's actually the best CG we did in the whole movie."

Another scene follows a hunt for one of Pandora's bizarre creatures in a "rousing action-adventure, pulse-pounding kind of scene," he said.

The extended version will appear on a special-edition DVD to be released in November. It will also include a more expanded, "alternate reality version" of the film that is 16 minutes longer than the original, Cameron said.

He has already begun technical development on an "Avatar" sequel that will focus on the planet's ocean environment.

"I love diving," he said, "and if I'm making this movie, I'm not going to be diving as much as I'd like, so I'm going to give myself a kind of methadone fix by doing fantasy ocean."

He will also get a dose of underwater fun in the submarine he's building in Australia. Cameron plans to explore the Pacific's Mariana Trench in a two-seater sub that can go 36,000 feet below the

surface.

He's working on upgrading his 3-D underwater camera and is helping build a space-age 3-D camera for the new Mars rover, Curiosity.

"You'll be able to see Mars going by, in 3-D," he said.

He's also working on a 3-D conversion of "Titanic," which he hopes to release in April 2012, the 100-year anniversary of its sailing and sinking.

Cameron is excited by the promise of 3-D and a future in which every screen is dimensionalized — which

he thinks is just a few years away.

"You'll still need glasses in the movie theater, but you'll have video, you'll have laptops, all your small devices, the iPads and all that stuff will be without glasses," he said. "We're basically revolutionizing how people watch stuff."

"We're rewriting the contract between humans and screens. The whole world is defined by humans watching screens — we watch screens at work, we watch screens for entertainment — and we're changing it." □



FILE - In this Jan. 20, 2010 file photo, singer Lady Gaga performs in concert at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

(AP Photo/Evan Agostini, file)

Lady Gaga assumes reign as latest 'Twitter queen'

NEW YORK — Lady Gaga has surpassed Britney Spears as the most followed person on Twitter — for now.

She has more than 5.7 million followers. She overtook Spears over the weekend and posted a video late Saturday on YouTube.

Gaga called her fans her "little monsters" as she thanked them for beginning "my reign as Twitter queen."

Spears, Ashton Kutcher, Ellen DeGeneres and an account run by President Barack Obama's political organization, Organizing for America, all have more than 5 million followers.

The most followed title often shifts rapidly, and fans frequently organize to boost their favorite's tally. □



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BUSINESS

Aruba TODAY

Stocks drift as economy worries outweigh deal news

By **STEPHEN BERNARD**,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – Stocks drifted lower Monday as a fresh round of corporate dealmaking was tempered by skepticism about the strength of the economy. Stocks got an early lift after a spate of new deals were announced, but the gains faded quickly. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 10 points in afternoon trading. Broader indexes were mixed. Technology giant Hewlett-Packard Co. offered \$24 per share for 3Par Inc. just one week after rival Dell Inc. agreed to buy the data storage provider for \$18 a share. Meanwhile Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan Inc. formally rejected BHP Billiton's \$38.5 billion offer to acquire the fertilizer company. European markets rose after banking company HSBC Holdings said it was in talks to buy a controlling stake in Nedbank Group Ltd. of South Africa from Old Mutual for as much as \$6.8 billion. Despite the positive deal news, there are still plenty of worries about the economy which are likely keep a lid on big moves in the market. Stocks slumped last Thursday and Friday after claims for unemployment benefits jumped to their highest level since November.

"Companies are not hiring because they don't know the rules of the game," said Frank Ingarra, co-portfolio manager of Hennessy Funds. "When you don't know the rules, you pack up and go home." Ingarra said companies are hesitant to hire because of uncertainty surrounding costs tied to recently passed financial regulation and health care reform. The possibility of rising taxes also has companies worried about

consumption, he said.

The Dow Jones industrial average rose 9.53, or 0.1 percent, to 10,222.21 in afternoon trading. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 0.70, or 0.1 percent, to 1,072.39, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 8.94, or 0.4 percent, to 2,170.82.

Rising stocks narrowly outpaced those that fell on the New York Stock Exchange, where trading volume remained light. About 438.5 million shares have been traded Monday.

Bond prices dipped slightly. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which moves opposite to its price, fell to 2.61 percent from 2.62 percent late Friday.

That yield helps set interest rates on mortgages and consumer loans.

"People are focused on the head winds more than the tail winds," said Walter Gerasimowicz, chief investment officer at Meditron Asset Management. He said investors are overlooking

historically low interest rates and signs of corporate strength, choosing instead to focus on disappointing economic data.

Reports are due this week on the housing market, durable goods orders, consumer sentiment and a revision to second-quarter gross domestic product.

Housing remains especially weak following the expiration of the government's tax credit earlier this year. Reports on existing and new home sales are due out Tuesday and Wednesday.

Wednesday's durable goods order will be examined for signs that a slowdown in manufacturing was only temporary. A regional manufacturing report Thursday about the Mid-Atlantic region showed activity shrank, spooking investors.

Manufacturing had shown the most consistent growth throughout the year. The University of Michigan also reports its second reading on consumer sentiment for the month. □



In this photograph taken Aug. 19, 2010, Stifel, Nicolaus & Company's Anthony Cerar works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, in New York. Stock futures are rising Monday, Aug. 23, as investors tentatively move back into the market after a recent retreat because of worries about the economy.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams)

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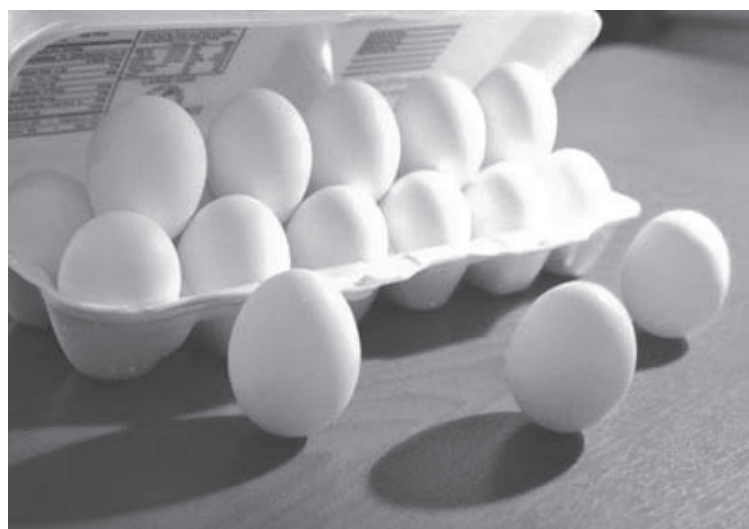
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HEALTH

Aruba TODAY

FDA Chief: Enforcement of food safety too limited



Eggs sit in an egg carton in Washington, DC. A top US egg producer Thursday expanded its recall to include 380 million chicken eggs that could be contaminated with salmonella bacteria, in one of the largest such recalls in recent history.

By MARY CLARE JALONICK,

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Farms like the two involved in a massive recall of more than a half-billion eggs are rarely inspected by the federal government, officials say, as the Food and Drug Administration has traditionally reacted to outbreaks instead of working to prevent them.

Food and Drug Administration chief Margaret Hamburg said Monday her agency hasn't had enough authority to help prevent outbreaks like the more than 1,000 cases of salmonella poisoning linked to the eggs from two Iowa farms. Giving a series of network interviews, Hamburg said the FDA is taking the issue "very, very seriously." At the same time, she said Congress should pass legislation stalled in the Senate that would increase the frequency of inspections and give the agency authority to order a recall. Companies now have to issue such recalls voluntarily.

"We need better abilities and authorities to put in place these preventive controls and hold companies accountable," Hamburg said.

Food safety advocates have pushed for such improvements

for more than a decade, as there have been few rules on the books that require companies to make eggs, along with many other foods, safer. The FDA's authority on the farm is questionable as the agency is often limited to gathering information about a contamination outbreak after people have already been sickened. Investigations into what went wrong come well after the crucial evidence is gone. Dr. Jeff Farrar, FDA's associate commissioner for food protection, says the agency has traditionally focused on food manufacturing facilities instead of farms as the agency's authority is muddled and there are few standards in place.

"The farm is just a different environment," he said. "Without those standards we don't have the specific information to say you are in compliance in this area and out of compliance here."

The Obama administration has tried to remedy that with new rules that went into effect in July, just after the current egg outbreak began. The rules, which require producers to do more testing for salmonella and take other precautions, had languished for more than a decade after President Bill

Clinton first proposed that egg standards be toughened. The FDA said in July that the new safeguards could reduce the number of salmonella cases by nearly 60 percent.

Those rules would be bolstered by the legislation, which the House passed more than a year ago but the Senate has not yet taken up. The bill would provide more money to the FDA for inspections and enforcement.

The lack of oversight has become a bigger problem as the egg industry, like many other food industries, has consolidated over recent years, placing fewer, larger businesses in control of much of the nation's egg supply to consumers.

"These are high risk facilities so you need FDA checking on them regularly, at least once a year, to make sure they are complying with the regulations," said Caroline Smith DeWaal, food safety director for the Center for Science in the Public Interest. "You can't produce food at

that level without a food safety cop on the beat."

The two Iowa farms linked to the disease outbreak — Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms — share suppliers of chickens and feed as well as ties to an Iowa business with a long history of violating state and federal laws. FDA officials said last week they had "no inspectional history" with Wright County Egg.

Jewanna Porter, a spokeswoman for the egg industry, said the company Quality Egg supplies young chickens and feed to both Wright County Egg and Hillandale Farms. The two share other suppliers, she said, but she did not name them.

Businessman Austin "Jack" DeCoster owns Wright County Egg and Quality Egg. Wright County Egg recalled 380 million eggs Aug. 13 after it was linked to more than 1,000 cases of salmonella poisoning. A week later, Hillandale Farms recalled 170 million eggs.

Lawsuits are building up against the companies.

William D. Marler, a Seattle attorney for a person who filed suit alleging illness from tainted eggs in a salad at a restaurant in Kenosha, Wis., said his firm has been retained by two dozen families and was representing a woman who was hospitalized in California.

As for consumers, Hamburg had some practical advice: Reject over-easy eggs. She said that as federal investigators continue their work with the companies involved, consumers should strictly avoid "runny egg yolks for mopping up with toast."

The number of illnesses, which can be life-threatening, especially to those with weakened immune systems, is expected to increase. The most common symptoms are diarrhea, abdominal cramps and fever eight to 72 hours of eating a contaminated product.

Hamburg appeared Monday on ABC's "Good Morning America," CBS's "The Early Show," and NBC's "Today" show. □

Mouse virus link to chronic fatigue is studied

WASHINGTON — A U.S. government study has uncovered a family of mouse viruses in some people with chronic fatigue syndrome, raising still more questions about whether an infection may play a role in the complicated illness.

Monday's study does not prove that having any of these viruses causes harm, stressed co-author Dr. Harvey Alter of the National Institutes of Health.

But it strengthens suspicions, and the government has additional research under way to determine if the link is real or not.

Meanwhile, a group of French and Canadian scientists said it's time to test whether antiviral medications like those used against HIV might treat at least some people with chronic fatigue. The virus connection first made headlines last fall when Nevada researchers reported finding a specific type, named XMRV, in the blood of two-thirds of the 101 chronic fatigue patients they tested. But several other studies, including one from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, failed to find XMRV virus in

patients, making researchers wonder if this was a false alarm.

Monday's study, published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, thickens the plot. This time, NIH and Food and Drug Administration scientists examined the blood of 37 chronic fatigue patients and again didn't find XMRV — but instead they found a group of closely related bugs named MLV-related viruses in 86 percent of the cases.

Testing of 44 healthy blood donors, in contrast, found evidence of those viruses in nearly 7 percent. Various viruses have been linked to chronic fatigue over the years only to fall by the wayside as potential culprits in the mysterious illness thought to afflict about 1 million Americans. It's characterized by at least six months of severe fatigue, impaired memory and other symptoms, but there's no test for it and no specific treatment.

These MLV, or "murine leukemia-related viruses," are known to cause some cancers in mice, and the XMRV relative has been found in some human prostate tumors, too. □

Frog Egg Cells Key Ingredient in Robotic Nose

Michelle Bryner

A chemical detector made from egg cells of the African clawed frog could give robots a new sense of smell.

About the size of a matchbook, the new device consists of two electrodes - strips of metal - and egg cells called oocytes (from the frog *Xenopus laevis*) covered with the equivalent of tiny insect "noses." When a chemical passes over the surface of the eggs, a specific electrical current is produced depending on the scent, creating a kind of fingerprint of the odorant.

This is not the first time frog eggs have been used to sniff out chemicals.

"People for many years, my lab especially, have been involved in work using *Xenopus* oocytes to express olfactory receptors," said Laurence Zwiebel, professor at Vanderbilt University who was not involved in the study.

"It's a very convenient system; it's essentially a little factory cell that you can harvest very easily and make it work for you," Zwiebel told TechNewsDaily.

However, the new study marks the first time frog eggs have been used in a robot, said Shoji Takeuchi, professor at the University of Tokyo and co-author of the study.

The new insect-sensor won't be available commercially for about 15 years, Takeuchi said. However, the researchers hope to expand the sensor's palette - enabling it to detect more odors, Takeuchi said.

To turn these frog oocytes into odor-sniffing detectors, the researchers injected the frog cells with genetic material from the silkworm, the diamondback moth and the fruit fly. The frog cells then used this genetic material (RNA) to express olfactory receptors of the insects - leaving behind a surface covered with smell detectors.

When odor molecules waft past the nose of an animal, including a human, olfactory receptors detect those molecules and send a "smell" message in the form of electrical signals to the brain. In this case, however, the signals are intercepted by the metal electrodes and passed along to a microprocessor. The result: A frog egg sensor that was able to distinguish between "nearly identical" chemicals.

Next, the team installed the new sensor into the head of a robot mannequin and connected it to an electric motor, which gave the head "nodding" ability. When the robot smelled a specific insect pheromone that was sent through tiny tubes to its nose, the robot would shake its head.

Today's robots get their sense of smell from electronic gas detectors made from materials typically found in a computer. While these have been developed to respond to a range of chemicals, they don't have the sensitivity found in nature.

Takeuchi and his colleagues detailed their findings online Aug. 23 in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. □

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Obama's Poor Politicking

David Paul Kuhn

CNN political analyst Gloria Borger recently posed a question: "How does the great communicator, Barack Obama, lose a communications battle?"

The assumption is revealing. The Obama hyperbole has gradually faded into reality. Said to be a brilliant politician. Said to be a great communicator. The conventional perceptions of Obama were flawed from the outset. The political class has gradually come to recognize those flaws in isolation. But enough aberrations construct a norm. The presumed exceptions become the rule. And in time, the premises themselves require reexamination.

Obama's mismanagement of the debate over Park51, the Islamic cultural center and mosque near Ground Zero, is a window into the president we have come to know. This is not a matter of man versus myth. It's man versus man. It's now plainly silly to place Obama beside the great communicators of the television age. He's no Reagan or Kennedy, in this sense. But this mosque incident, like so many incidents before it, also raises deeper questions. Does Obama simply have poor political instincts?

There is the failure to seize upon, if not lead, during defining moments. There was the cool response to the AIG bonuses early on. There was the BP disaster this summer.

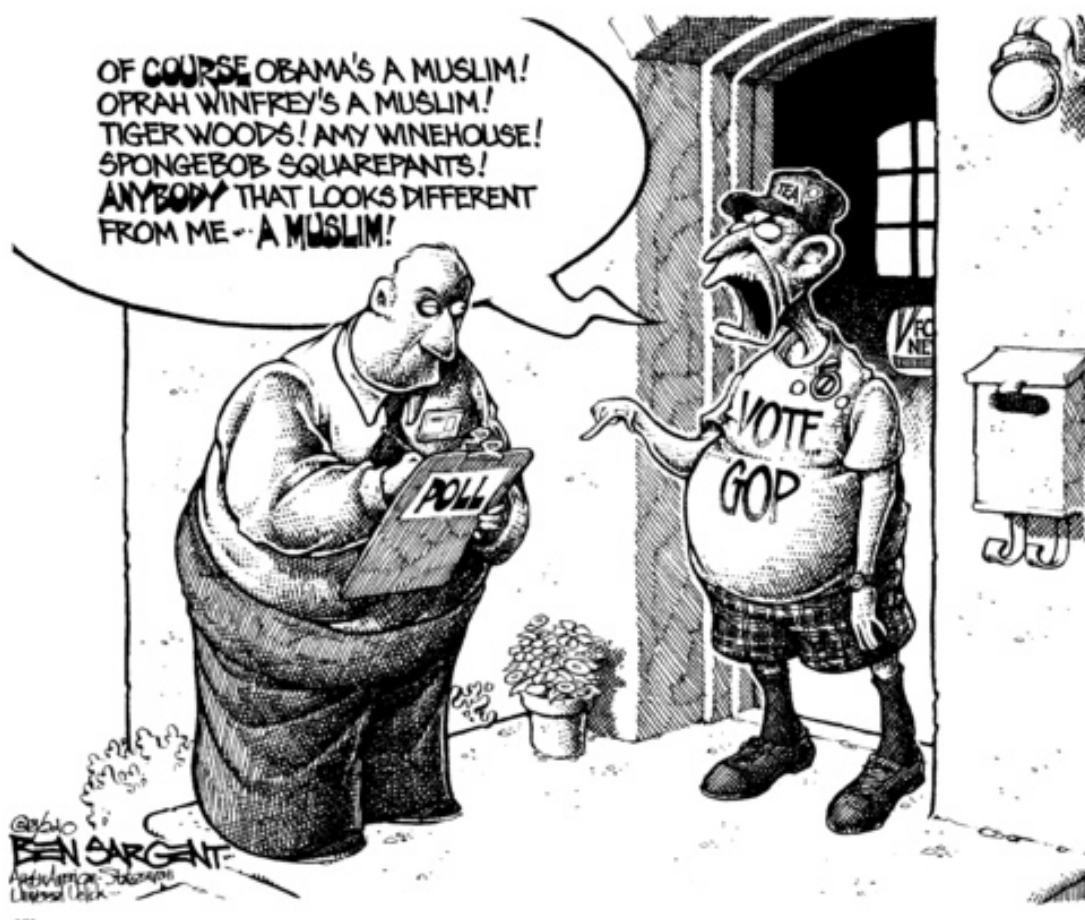
There was the bad theater. The expressions of American mistakes abroad. Not said from a position of strength. But said at a time when America was confronting its own national weakness.

There were the impotent uses of power. The fruitless chase of GOP moderates on healthcare. The failed attempt to push out the New York governor. The presumptuous firing of Shirley Sherrod. The inability to manage Charlie Rangel.

There were the unforced errors. Many with deep cultural resonance. The "bitter" slip during the 2008 campaign. Last summer's cop and prof circus. Now the Muslim Park51 mess.

Why did Park51 become a presidential mess? Obama defended the right to have the mosque near Ground Zero. But the day after, he refused to comment on whether it was right. By midweek, Obama said he had no regrets. The law professor would not further incriminate himself.

Obama could have taken the principled stand on the mosque. It would not have been popular. But the principled stand can outlive the popular stand. It testifies to character. And that gets to grit, the central value by which all presidents are judged. Instead, Obama refused to weigh into the wisdom of building a mosque near Ground Zero. □



A long school year will keep America competitive

By Cynthia Tucker

WASHINGTON--Classrooms are coming alive around the country, and parents are lining up at big-box stores with their lists of school supplies in hand. In a ritual repeated every year in late summer, students are starting their required 180 days or so of study. Why 180 days? Why do students take most of the summer off?

It's a system that dates to the 19th century, when most Americans were connected to agricultural work, and their children were valuable farm labor.

(Actually, the 180 days is an average: A couple of states add a few more days, while several require fewer. And, with states desperately cutting their budgets, the trend is toward fewer days, not more.) Last year, President Obama and his Education Secretary, Arne Duncan, called for more classroom time for the nation's students, noting that a globalized economy demands a better education of its workers. "Our school calendar is based upon the agrarian economy and not too many of our kids are working the fields today," Duncan said.

Critics of the nation's public

schools sometimes overstate their shortcomings, insisting that educational standards are lower than they used to be. That's quite unlikely.

As a graduate of Alabama's public schools, I remember when dropout rates were not calculated because educators simply didn't expect that all students would receive diplomas. Some kids routinely started school later in the fall and stopped early in the spring because they had to help with harvests and planting. They were expected to earn a living doing agricultural work -- for which formal education wasn't required. Happily, educational standards have been elevated since then. Unfortunately, the demands of the work world have changed faster than our schools have. The United States can no longer rely on a vast manufacturing sector that churns out middle-class wages -- with benefits -- to those with a high school diploma or less. Manufacturing is moving, increasingly, to lower-wage nations. That tide cannot be reversed.

But raising educational standards can produce workers able to compete. Even in a stingy economy, the unemployment rate among

college graduates is lower than that among workers with only high school diplomas. Indeed, the more education you have, the less likely it is that you've had trouble finding work. So, with nearly 90 percent of the nation's kids in its public schools, raising classroom standards is among our most vital tasks.

That won't be accomplished through any single fix. Merit pay should be instituted to encourage teacher competence; class sizes, especially in the early grades, should be smaller; and, yes, instructional time should be increased. Experts disagree about whether students need more school days or longer days. The most rigorous studies have shown that more "time on task" raises test scores -- whether by lengthening the school hour or the school year.

Either way, many school systems have flinched at the increased costs. Teachers and administrators will have to be paid more; energy costs will rise if school buildings are open longer. But there aren't many things more beneficial to the country than educating its citizens, so a misplaced fiscal prudence shouldn't hold up reform. □

33 operarios atrapados en mina chilena comenzaron a recibir alimentos

MINA SAN JOSE, Chile (Reuters) - Con los ojos irritados y varios kilos menos, los 33 operarios atrapados desde hace 18 días en una mina en Chile comenzaron el lunes a recibir alimentos, un día después de que se constatará que milagrosamente están vivos aunque su rescate demorará meses.

Una cámara multipropósito bajó a media jornada a través de la única perforación que llegó al fondo de la mina y que sirve como especie de cordón umbilical con los mineros, quienes aseguraron estar bien.

“Ellos dijeron que están muy bien, que no tenían ningún problema de salud (...) que necesitan escobillas de dientes”, dijo el ministro de Minería, Laurence Golborne, quien además bromeó con que parientes habían sugerido mandar cerveza por el pozo que fue reforzado más temprano por grupos de rescate.

A 700 metros de profundidad,



Rescatistas preparan sonda para enviar suministros a los mineros atrapados en una mina subterránea en Copiapó, Chile. Ago 23 2010 REUTERS/Ivan Alvarado

los mineros cantaron el himno nacional y corearon “Ceachei”, el característico grito de los chilenos en acontecimientos deportivos, según dijo Golborne.

Tras la histórica jornada del

domingo, cuando los propios mineros sorprendieron al mundo al enviar pruebas de vida adjuntas en una sonda que llegó al fondo del yacimiento, autoridades definían el plan de rescate de los mineros que van camino a romper todas las marcas de sobrevivencia bajo tierra.

“Voy a esperar todo lo que tenga que esperar para ver a mi esposo de nuevo”, dijo Lilianett Ramírez, una de los familiares que acampa en las afueras de la mina

accidentada.

Sin embargo, a los mineros aún no se les ha dicho cuánto tiempo deberán esperar antes de ser rescatados de las entrañas del cerro, por lo que las cartas de amor de sus esposas e hijos serán claves para mantenerlos vivos, dijeron expertos.

Pasado el mediodía y una vez que hicieron contacto, socorristas comenzaron a suministrarles alimentos con mucha glucosa a través de tubos de plásticos llamados palomas, para ir en auxilio de

los mineros que enfrentan uno de los peores accidentes en la historia de Chile.

Según especialistas, los mineros atrapados habrían perdido entre unos 5 a 7 kilos, pero no estarían deshidratados ya que contarían con agua proveniente de las mismas perforaciones que hacen las máquinas de sondaje.

En las afueras de la accidentada mina, en el campamento bautizado “Esperanza”, familiares disfrutaron por primera vez de una jornada más relajada tras más de dos semanas de angustia, aunque ahora comienza a surgir la ansiedad de un pronto rescate.

Los trabajadores atrapados pertenecen a la pequeña mina de cobre y oro San José, ubicada en pleno desierto de Atacama y a unos 800 kilómetros al norte de la capital chilena. Sobre los plazos para las labores de rescate, el jefe a cargo de los sondeos dijo que el margen es amplio y que sólo podría haber novedades hacia octubre o noviembre, lo que se convertiría en el mayor rescate minero en la historia mundial. El récord lo tiene China cuando en julio del 2009 unos 13 mineros permanecieron atrapados en una mina durante 25 días. □

Ecuador:

Mejoran relaciones con Perú y Colombia

QUITO (AP) - Las reuniones que el canciller Ricardo Patiño sostendrá esta semana por separado con sus pares de Perú y de Colombia muestran que las relaciones con esos países están mejorando, dijo el lunes el vicecanciller, Kinto Lucas.

El encuentro con el peruano José Antonio Belaúnde, se cumplirá en la capital ecuatoriana para abordar temas bilaterales, y continuará el martes en el marco de la reunión de la Comisión de Vecindad Ecuatoriano-Peruana, en Guayaquil.

Previo al encuentro, que se cumplió en reserva, Belaúnde, señaló que Perú “aspira a mantener sostenidamente la excelente relación bilateral que existe en la actualidad con Ecuador”. Añadió que “nunca hemos estado tan bien con Ecuador, eso no solo lo decimos nosotros, también lo dice el presidente Rafael Correa; entonces lo que pretendemos ahora es seguir trabajando”.

Con la ministra de Relaciones Exteriores de Colombia María Angela Holguín, la cita está fijada para el 26 de agosto en la ciudad fronteriza de Ipiales.

En declaraciones a radio Sonorama, Lucas dijo que “el tratar primero con Perú y luego con Colombia, nos está demostrando que estamos mejorando las relaciones con Perú y ahora estamos mejorando la relaciones con Colombia”. □

EEUU evaluará solicitudes de residencia de cubanos liberados

WASHINGTON (AP) - Estados Unidos afina los detalles para tramitar con celeridad la solicitud que pudiera hacer algún preso político cubano recién liberado para radicar en este país.

“Estamos trabajando de cerca con el Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS, por sus siglas en inglés) para hallar la manera más expedita de procesar cualquier solicitud que estos individuos puedan hacer, y aún afinamos los detalles”, dijo el lunes el portavoz del Departamento de Estado Philip Crowley.

“No estoy al tanto de que se hayan formulado solicitudes formales para venir a Estados Unidos. Pero evaluaremos las solicitudes una por una”, agregó.

Varios de los 26 prisioneros políticos cubanos que llegaron a España después de que la Iglesia católica y el gobierno español negociaran con La Habana la liberación de 52, han expresado

públicamente su interés de radicarse en Estados Unidos. Uno de los 26 ya se desplazó a Chile.

Crowley dijo que el proceso para que cualquiera de estas 26 personas venga a Estados Unidos se complica debido a que está involucrado un tercer país (España), pero “ello por sí solo no excluye a nadie para venir a Estados Unidos”.

Los liberados, que aceptaron abandonar Cuba y viajar a España, forman parte del llamado “Grupo de los 75”, condenados en el 2003 bajo cargos de recibir dinero y orientación de gobiernos extranjeros, en especial Estados Unidos, para socavar a la revolución cubana.

La secretaria de Estado Hillary Clinton le dijo al ministro español de Relaciones Exteriores Miguel Angel Moratinos que Washington estaría dispuesto a recibir a los disidentes siempre y cuando la transferencia no viole ninguna ley. □



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